

MISSISSIPPI

MILITARY DEPARTMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





To the
Mississippi National Guard

As the 65th Governor of the great state of Mississippi, I am honored to congratulate the Mississippi National Guard on another incredible year.

The Mississippi National Guard has once again set an unparalleled example of excellence, sacrifice, and service. You have never backed down from a challenge, and you've consistently shown unwavering dedication and commitment to your fellow Mississippians.

Over the past year, you have served our state and our nation with courage and distinction in the Middle East. You heroically deployed to assist your fellow Americans in the wake of Hurricane Helene. You sacrificed time with your loved ones in selfless service to others. Wherever the mission, you represented our state with honor, with purpose, and exemplified our state's highest ideals.

Over the next year, I know that you will continue to superbly serve our state and protect the freedoms we hold dear. When Mississippi needs you, you never hesitate to jump into action. On behalf of every Mississippian, know that we remain committed to supporting you and your families.

Thank you to every Guardsman across our state. Your commitment to Mississippi is crucial to our success. We are grateful for you, and we're proud of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

Governor Tate Reeves

MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2023 | JUNE 2024

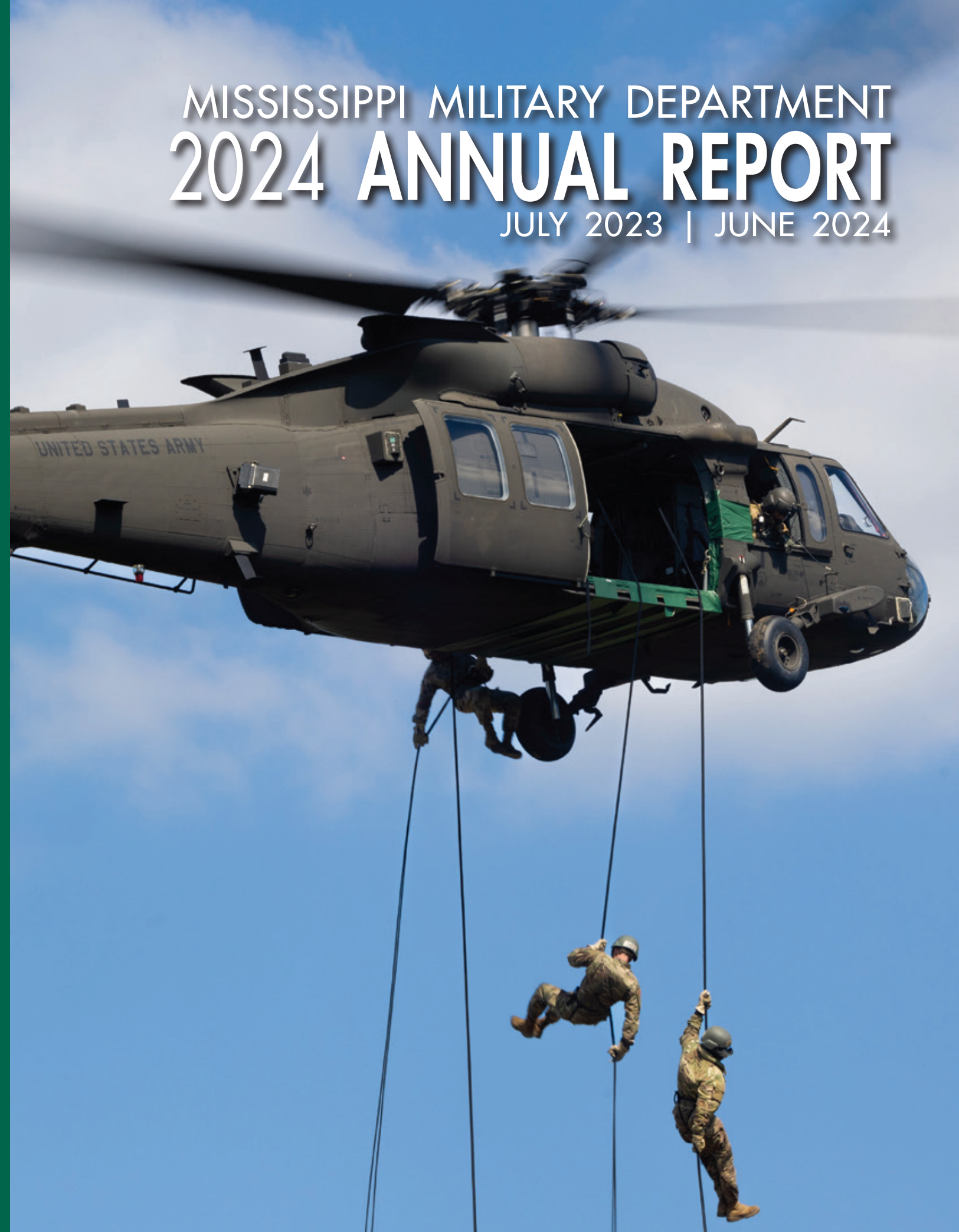




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To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

I am grateful for having the honor and privilege as the 53rd Adjutant General to lead the brave men and women serving in the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard. It is with immense pride that I present to you the annual report for the Mississippi Military Department, highlighting our extraordinary achievements and some challenges we faced during State Fiscal Year 2024.

During the early months of the new year, we faced an unexpected tragedy on February 23rd when we lost two of our Army Aviators in North Mississippi. This devastating crash took the lives of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Abbott and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Zemek. This loss was felt throughout our organization, yet we stood Shoulder-to-Shoulder during our time of grief and remembrance to honor them and support their families and fellow Soldiers.

This year has presented a new perspective with several key leader changes and personnel moves as highlighted in the following leadership pages. I was honored to assume the responsibility as TAG at our State Capitol Sept. 6, 2024. I am grateful to Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles for his eight years of exemplary service as the Adjutant General.

The Soldiers and Airmen of the Mississippi National Guard have served with honor and integrity on missions throughout our state and nation, and during overseas contingency operations. We deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation Spartan Shield, European Deterrence Initiative, Valiant Shield, and the Southwest Border mission, among others. We will continue to answer the call no matter where the mission takes us.

Mississippi Army National Guard units had service members deployed throughout this past year including 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 185th Aviation Brigade; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade; the 106th Brigade Support Battalion; the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team; 210th Finance Battalion; 113th Military Police Company; and Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group.

Members of the Mississippi Air National Guard from the 172nd Airlift Wing, the 186th Air Refueling Wing, and the 255th Air Control Squadron served on group deployments and multiple individual deployments. These units took our service members to various locations in Europe and the Middle East.

In all endeavors, the Mississippi National Guard continues to grow through relevant state-of-the-art training, establishing this organization as a vital resource among our nation's combat-ready reserve forces. The professionalism of our military service members distinguishes Mississippi as one of the premier Guard states in the nation.

In April 2024, the Mississippi National Guard hosted the thirteenth iteration of our nationally recognized Southern Strike exercise. This realistic and fast-paced training opportunity provided a multi-national, multi-state, and multi-component military force training environment encompassing more than 2,000 service members representing more than 20 states and 6 countries in this year's exercise alone. This year's training included more than 300 service members from the Republic of Uzbekistan, Belgium, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Canada. Mississippi looks forward to continuing to strengthen our alliance with our international partners in Uzbekistan.

The dedicated heroes of the Mississippi National Guard continue to perform with confidence, skill, and exceptional patriotism in every mission. Our service members proudly represent Mississippi with Soldiers and Airmen living in every county of our great state.

Your Mississippi National Guard continues to set a standard of excellence at home and around the world. We stand ready to serve the great citizens of Mississippi and answer our nation's call to serve "Shoulder - To - Shoulder."

Bobby M. Ginn Jr.



To the Governor of the Great State of Mississippi

I am honored to serve as the Senior Enlisted Leader for the Mississippi National Guard. Your Soldiers and Airmen are trained, proficient, and ready to respond to any mission in support of our state and nation. Our diversity is our strength and a true reflection of the talented men and women who represent every county of our state. Our service members lead from the front and take pride in serving with honor and integrity. On behalf of the talented professionals serving in the MSNG, I am proud to highlight our accomplishments and contributions for this year's annual report.

The foundation of our success is our focus on training. Mississippi is home to state-of-the-art training facilities used by all components and branches of military service. Service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force, and Coast Guard have chosen our facilities to conduct their training exercises. We share our pristine training facilities for the needs of commanders from Camp McCain in Grenada, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center near Hattiesburg, the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Thompson Field in Flowood, and Key Field in Meridian. Regardless of the military training needs, the Mississippi National Guard sustains a reputation for training excellence.

Mississippi Guardsmen continue to set a standard of excellence in advanced technological real-world training events conducted state-wide including Southern Strike, the state-wide Best Warrior Competition, Exercise Thunderstrike, and other training ventures while maintaining disaster response training such as the annual HURREX. This year we have broadened our skillsets with emerging technologies including cyber and electronic warfare and defense, electromagnetic warfare, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and signal intelligence.

Southern Strike 2024 continued to promote training excellence with multi-component military service members from 20 states representing a diverse platform of Active Duty, Reserves, and National Guard forces. This year's exercise implemented training strategies including the Air Force's combat employment strategy known as Agile Combat Employment (ACE) tactics techniques, and procedures resulting in multi-capable Airmen. At the conclusion of this fast-paced training, we exceeded our target objectives while strengthening joint military operations and interagency partnerships.

The MSNG continues to challenge our next generation of Soldiers and Airmen through the annual Best Warrior Competition. Our Guardsmen trained and competed in various events including a physical fitness test, weapons qualification, obstacle course, a written exam, night land navigation course, and various other warrior tasks and skills. We are proud to recognize the grit in this year's competitors and celebrate our winners; Spc. William Hillman, 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 66th Troop Command; and Staff Sgt. Cody Pellegrin, 3rd Non-Commissioned Officers Training Academy, 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute.

Training this year has continued to be demanding and deliberate, ensuring every service member in our formation is fit-to-fight when our nation calls. With every challenge, our Soldiers and Airmen exceeded expectations and continued to lead our state as one of our nation's premier combat reserve forces. We stand strong in our integrity and dedication to serve our communities, state, and nation in response to natural disasters and overseas contingency operations. It is through these diverse opportunities that our courageous men and women excel and serve with honor and integrity. Together, we stand and serve "Shoulder-To-Shoulder."

Joseph Shane Cook



Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Shane Cook
Senior Enlisted Leader



JOINT



Brig. Gen. James Hankins Jr.
Director of Joint Staff



Col. Brian A. Pazzaglia
Chief of Joint Staff



Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan B. Coleman
Land Component Command Sergeant Major

ARMY



Maj. Gen. John T. Kelly
Assistant Adjutant General - Army



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Donald R. Dukes, Jr.
State Command Chief Warrant Officer



Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell L. Masterson
State Command Sergeant Major

AIR



Maj. Gen. Edward H. Evans
Assistant Adjutant General - Air



Brig. Gen. Tommy F. Tillman
Chief of Staff - Air



Command Chief Master Sgt. John W. Myers
State Command Chief Master Sergeant



Col. Wyatt Rives
Director of Staff - Air

MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS



Brig. Gen. Andrew S. Rendon
Commander, 66th Troop Command



Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Thomas
Commander, 184th Sustainment Command



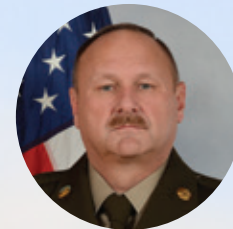
Col. Christopher W. Cooksey
Commander, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team



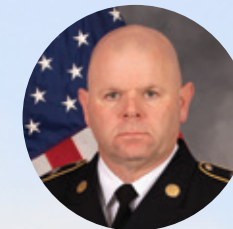
Col. Cynthia L. Smith
Commander, 186th Air Refueling Wing



Col. Britt Watson
Commander, 172nd Airlift Wing



Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Krol
66th Troop Command



Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley T. Williams
184th Sustainment Command



Command Sgt. Maj. Brian K. Belue
155th Armored Brigade Combat Team



Chief Master Sgt. Blake Stanley
Command Chief Master Sergeant, 186th Air Refueling Wing



Chief Master Sgt. John K. Elliott
Command Chief Master Sergeant, 172nd Airlift Wing

INSTALLATIONS



Col. William L. Henry
Post Commander, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center



Col. Robert J. Kirby
Commander, Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport



Lt. Col. Curtis J. Garrette
Garrison Commander, Camp McCain Training Center



Command Sgt. Maj. Carl P. Dean II
Post Sergeant Major, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center



Chief Master Sgt. Michael A. Jamison
Chief Enlisted Manager, Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport



Command Sgt. Maj. Rickie L. Fortner
Garrison Sergeant Major, Camp McCain Training Center

• All leadership positions are current as of December 2024 •

• All leadership positions are current as of December 2024 •

STATE & FEDERAL FUNDING

The Mississippi National Guard maintains a strong presence throughout the Magnolia State. Our entire force consists of approximately 12,500 Soldiers and Airmen – more than 900 of which are Active Guard and Reserve. We have more than 1,100 federal technician employees and approximately 950 state employees, both of which are comprised of Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians. The MSNG has 59 Army National Guard Readiness Centers and 3 Air National Guard facilities.

This past year has been extremely busy and challenging for the Mississippi National Guard. During this year our Soldiers and Airmen have responded to numerous deployments around the world, State Active-Duty missions, and several training events. Exercise Southern Strike 2024, a two-part training exercise at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC), saw 2,000 military service members participating in a joint and international military partnership that strengthens contingency response operations including aeromedical evacuation, security forces airfield protection, specialized fueling operations, rotary aviation and airlift, and highlighted the skills of special operations forces and their ground movements. Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC) hosted Patriot South 24, a domestic operations disaster-response training exercise conducted by National Guard units working with federal, state, and local emergency management agencies and first responders.

The State Legislature continued its support of maintenance and repair of the MSNG readiness centers. These funds, combined with the Federal match, made the largest maintenance and repair appropriations the MSNG has seen in decades.

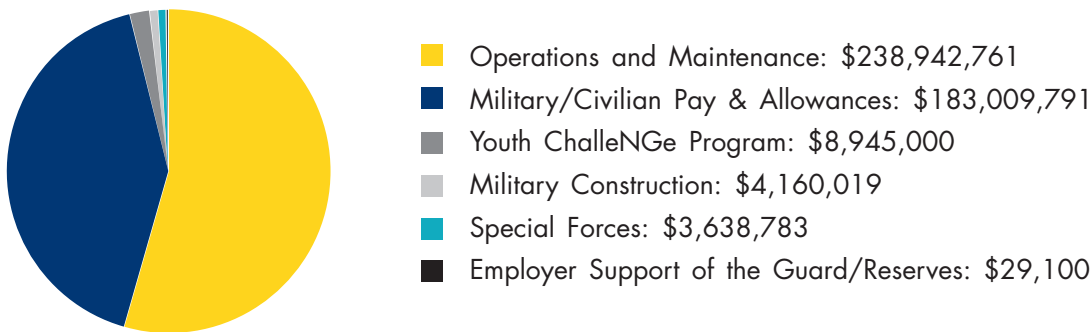


CONTINUED PROJECTS THROUGH FY 2024

Completed, Ongoing and Planned Improvements Throughout the State.

- A \$10.4 million Field Maintenance Shop and a \$4.1 million addition to the Forest Readiness center
- A \$1.2 million water well filtration system at Camp Shelby
- \$2.5 million in facility repairs to Readiness Centers throughout the state
- \$2.5 million for renovations, repairs, general operating upgrades and additions at the CSJFTC Youth ChalleNGe Academy
- \$9 million water basin project at Camp Shelby
- \$27.5 million construction of the Southaven Readiness Center
- \$1 million Camp Shelby pole barn
- \$5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for HVAC improvements at Camp Shelby and the St. Martin Readiness Center
- \$6 million for land acquisition, site development, construction, furnishing and equipping of new buildings and facilities for the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at CSJFTC

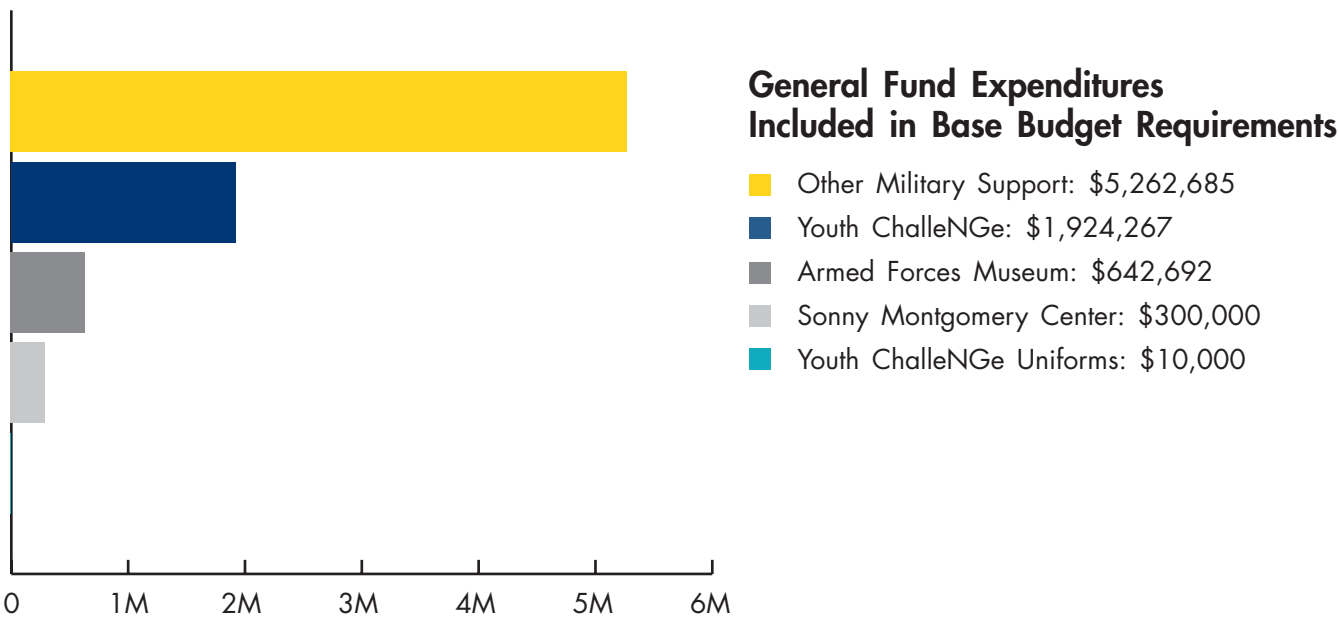
MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Expenditures : \$438,725,454



MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Expenditures : \$197,571,789



MISSISSIPPI MILITARY DEPARTMENT State Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Expenditures : \$8,139,644



NEW ADJUTANT GENERAL OF MISSISSIPPI



The Honorable Tate Reeves, Governor of Mississippi and commander in chief of the Mississippi National Guard, hosted an Assumption of Command ceremony Sept. 6, 2024, at the State Capitol in Jackson. Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, a Jackson native and the 52nd Adjutant General of Mississippi, relinquished command to Maj. Gen. Bobby M. Ginn, Jr., a Tylertown native and the 53rd Adjutant General.

Ginn's military service started in early 1990 as an enlisted Soldier, later earning his commission as a logistics officer after graduating from Mississippi's Officer Candidate School in 1993. From serving on a task force across the state following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to becoming the commander of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in 2017, Ginn has experienced a fair share of ups and downs, using the figurative rollercoaster to maintain his path forward.

"Today is the opportunity of a lifetime – the peak of my career. We will continue to propel this organization forward in a way that the state of Mississippi can be proud of. 'Your' National Guard is a local force with a global reach, and they have demonstrated that tirelessly. The blueprint for the future of this organization starts with recognizing and honoring our past. I eagerly undertake the task of building on the foundation previously laid by the former 52 adjutants general."



NEW ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL – AIR

The Mississippi National Guard celebrated the promotion of Brig. Gen. Edward H. Evans, the assistant adjutant general-Air and commander of the Mississippi Air National Guard, to the rank of major general in a ceremony Oct. 5, 2024, at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson. Evans has served with distinction over a career spanning more than three decades, 28 of those years in the Mississippi Air National Guard.

In accepting the promotion, Maj. Gen. Evans expressed gratitude to his family, fellow service members, mentors and friends who have supported his journey. Evans' father, retired Tech. Sgt. Edward Evans, Sr., and uncle, retired Col. Sidney Evans, Jr., both were U.S. Air Force service members. His grandfather, retired Master Sgt. Sidney Evans, was an original Tuskegee Airman with more than 33 years of military service.

NEW SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

The Mississippi National Guard hosted a Change of Responsibility ceremony Oct. 5, 2024, at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, marking the transition from Command Sgt. Maj. Silvester Tatum to Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Cook as the new Senior Enlisted Leader of the Mississippi National Guard. The ceremony, steeped in military tradition, included the symbolic passing of the unit colors, representing the transfer of authority and trust. Tatum, who served with distinction as the Mississippi National Guard senior enlisted leader for more than three years, was recognized for his exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication to the Soldiers, Airmen, and the Guard mission. Cook brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position following his previous role as the brigade command sergeant major for the 168th Engineer Brigade headquartered in Vicksburg.



GOVERNOR'S INAUGURATION SUPPORT

The Mississippi National Guard helped celebrate Gov. Tate Reeves' re-election as the 65th Governor of Mississippi during the Inauguration Ceremony at the Capitol Building Jan. 9, 2024, in Jackson. The 172nd Airlift Wing provided the Color Guard for the ceremony while the MSNG's 41st Army Band provided an ensemble to perform musical selections before and during the ceremony. Camp Shelby's Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES) performed the 19-gun salute using three M120 Cannons while Army Aviation professionals conducted a flyover using a UH-72 Lakota, UH-60 Blackhawk, CH-47 Chinook, and an AH-64 Apache helicopter. Members of the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, assisted with manpower and vehicles in the Inauguration Parade and Airmen from the 186th Air Refueling Wing displayed some of their own tactical vehicles.



MAJOR UNITS & ACTIVITIES

Approximately 12,500 Soldiers and Airmen

The Mississippi National Guard possesses an impressive force structure which offers a variety of strong options for state emergency and federal mobilization support. Our units and facilities cover the entire Magnolia State - from Corinth to the Coast and Vicksburg to Meridian.



JOINT FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, MSNG
JACKSON



66TH TROOP COMMAND
JACKSON



HEADQUARTERS
MISSISSIPPI AIR
NATIONAL GUARD
JACKSON



186TH AIR
REFUELING WING
MERIDIAN



CAMP SHELBY
JOINT FORCES
TRAINING CENTER
HATTIESBURG



CAMP MCCAIN
TRAINING CENTER
ELLIOTT



GULFPORT
COMBAT READINESS
TRAINING CENTER
GULFPORT



172ND
AIRLIFT WING
FLOWOOD



184TH
SUSTAINMENT COMMAND
(EXPEDITIONARY)
MONTICELLO



155TH ARMORED
BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
TUPELO



154TH REGIMENT
REGIONAL TRAINING
INSTITUTE
CAMP SHELBY



1108TH AVIATION
GROUP
GULFPORT



185TH
AVIATION BRIGADE
JACKSON



168TH ENGINEER
BRIGADE
VICKSBURG



CYBER PROTECTION
TEAM 178
CAMP SHELBY



MS AVIATION
CLASSIFICATION &
REPAIR ACTIVITY DEPOT
GULFPORT



47TH CIVIL
SUPPORT TEAM
FLOWOOD



COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE
MERIDIAN



20TH SPECIAL
FORCES GROUP
JACKSON



REGIONAL COUNTERDRUG
TRAINING ACADEMY
MERIDIAN



RECRUITING AND RETENTION
BATTALION
JACKSON

168TH EN BDE
CENTCOM DEPLOYMENT

The 168th Engineer Brigade (EN BDE) deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait March 21, 2023, and was assigned as the Theater Engineer Brigade (TEB), a Major Subordinate Command of two Task Force Battalions and seven specialized mission-tailored units. The TEB mission consisted of three lines of effort; conducting host nation partnership collective training and supporting interoperability of host nation capabilities, directing combat engineering and construction engineering operations with mission-tailored engineer forces, and seamlessly transitioning engineer units' posture in the U.S. Central Command area of operations. The 168th EN BDE was task organized and attached to Task Force Spartan under the 28th Infantry Division (ID) that was later replaced by the 40th ID.



KIDS AT

The Mississippi National Guard Military and Family Readiness Program held its 32nd Kids Annual Training (A.T.) at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center June 23-29, 2024. The one-week camp is designed for military dependents of the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard. Campers get a close-up experience of military day-to-day operations, learn about each military service and their etiquettes, the values of the Army and Air National Guard, participate in arts and crafts workshops, and many competitive activities. More than 120 campers participated in this year's annual training, demonstrating their companionship and appreciation for what their parents or guardians do in the military.

BEST WARRIOR

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center hosted the Mississippi National Guard Best Warrior Competition March 19-22, 2024. This annual event challenged Airmen and Soldiers through a series of physical and mental obstacles to find the best of the best in the MSNG. Events included the Army Combat Fitness Test, an obstacle course, weapon systems assessments, a 12-mile ruck march, the Air Force Fitness test, and other tasks and drills. Spc. William Hillman, 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 66th Troop Command, won the Soldier category of the competition, and Staff Sgt. Cody Pellegrin, 3rd NCO Academy, 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute, placed first in the NCO category. This competition highlighted the readiness and excellence of the Mississippi National Guard as well as the training opportunities and facilities Camp Shelby offers.



185TH ECAB
AVIATION AWARD

During the Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit in Denver, Colorado April 24, 2024, the 185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, Jackson, Mississippi was announced as the 2023 Army Aviation Association of America Outstanding Aviation Unit of the Year. Accepting the trophy on behalf of the unit was the commander, Col. J. Ashley Mills (left of trophy), and Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas J. Krol (right of trophy). Senior leaders present to congratulate the unit included Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Chief National Guard Bureau; U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence command team – Command Sgt. Maj. Kirk Coley, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Corsaro, and Maj. Gen. Michael C. McCurry; Gen. Laura Richardson, Commander, U.S. Southern Command; and AAAA Acting President, retired Army Maj. Gen. Walter M. Golden. Generals Hokanson and Richardson were the Army's most senior-ranking Army Aviators at the time of the ceremony.





CAMP MCCAIN

"Camp McCain is one of the finest training facilities in the United States. We strive to offer first class services to the Soldiers that travel from all over the country to train for domestic operations and future deployments abroad. The trust and support of our local community is our strength, and we stand poised to engage in civic and social functions to further cultivate this relationship. Camp McCain continues to grow as our nation and the world prepares to face hybrid threats from our adversaries. We will continue to proudly perform our DoD mission and represent the citizens of the great state of Mississippi because we are "Warriors Serving Warriors"."

– Lt. Col. Curtis J. Garrette
Commander, Camp McCain Training Center

The War Department established the Grenada Triangular Division Camp on Dec. 15, 1942. Shortly after being established, the Camp was renamed "Camp McCain" in honor of Major General Henry P. McCain.

The headquarters for Camp McCain is in Elliott, Mississippi, 10 miles South of Grenada. Camp McCain's facilities included numerous buildings and training areas on 42,073 acres located in Grenada and Montgomery Counties. During World War II, the 87th and 94th Divisions trained more than 50,000 service members for deployment to the European Theater and housed more than 7,700 German prisoners of war. Grenada Army Airfield was constructed to support Camp McCain in late 1943. The War Department deactivated Camp McCain in October 1944 and declared its property excess. The War Department transferred 3,006 acres of Camp McCain's lands to the Mississippi National Guard for use as a

weekend training site.

The Mississippi National Guard acquired additional land and constructed additional facilities over the following 80 years, culminating in the current 12,895-acre multicomponent, year-round training site. Camp McCain Training Center (CMTC) trains members of the U.S. military and civilian services, as well as international partners. Camp McCain is home to Companies C and E of the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, Detachment 1 of the Mississippi Medical Readiness Command, the Unit Training Equipment Site, and the Combined Support Maintenance Shop #2.

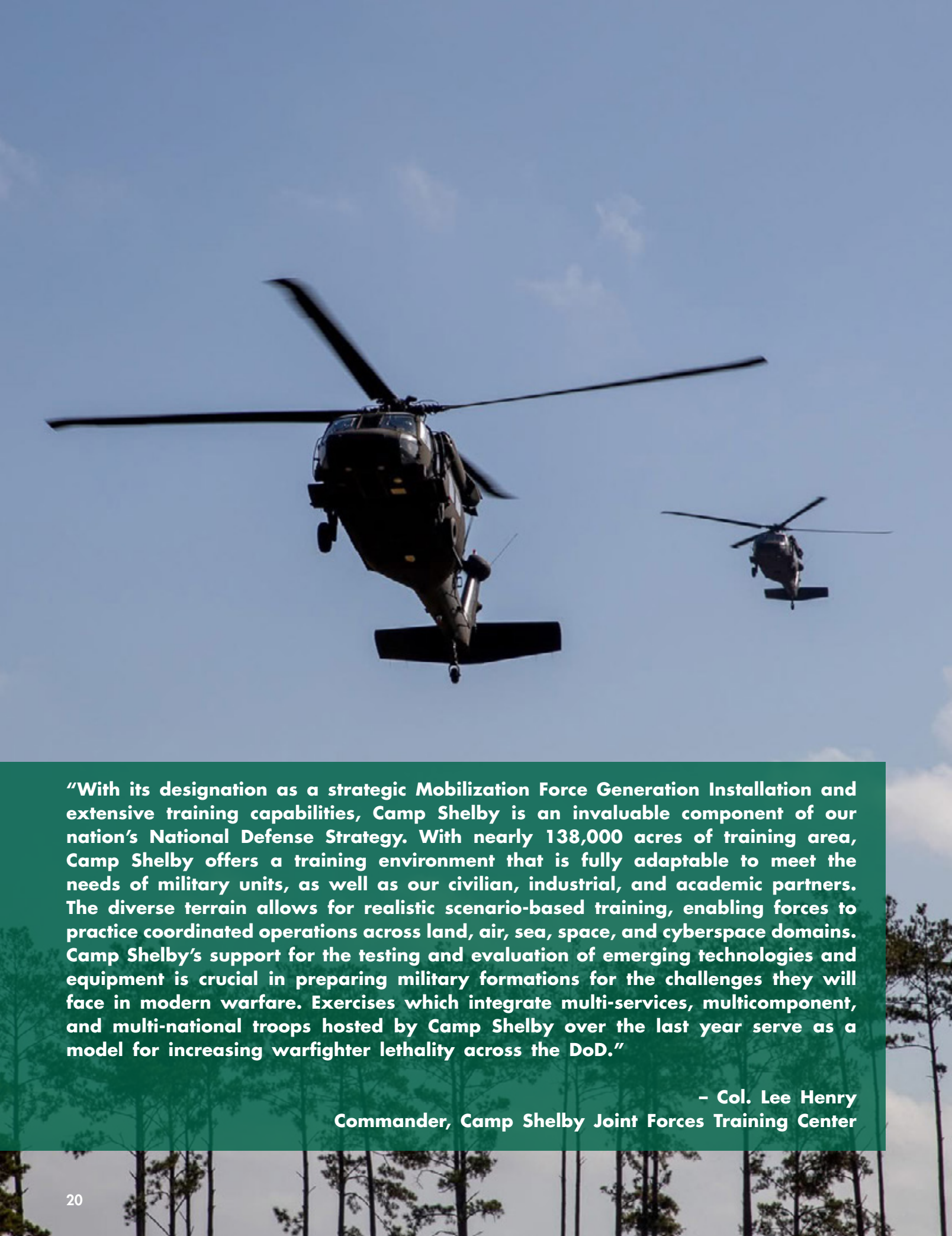
In State Fiscal Year 2024, CMTC facilitated training events for more than 45,800 service members from 76 different unit and duty status combinations including Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard. CMTC supported the Southern Strike exercise working with state, national, and international partner forces. Camp McCain also hosted the second Retiree Day – North welcoming more than 200 retirees back to the installation.

Camp McCain is extensively involved in the local community and has a partnership with local and county governments, Leadership Grenada, Grenada Public Education Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, rotary clubs, exchange clubs, chambers of commerce, and Economic Development Districts.

CMTC continues to enhance its environmental programs and contribute to the protection of the ecosystem and wildlife preservation. Throughout the past year, the installation completed 3,693 acres of prescribed burns, conducted multiple wildlife surveys, and led efforts to protect the Northern Long-Eared Bat, an endangered species, during multiple projects. CMTC's Environmental Office contracts and supervises more than 600 acres of agricultural hay leases, reducing mowing costs and generating revenue. Finally, Camp McCain has worked to preserve its timber ecosystem through the contracting and supervision of pulpwood timber thinning, tree marking for timber thinning, and natural regeneration of more than 100 acres of shortleaf pine.



• Photo represents a military training exercise •



“With its designation as a strategic Mobilization Force Generation Installation and extensive training capabilities, Camp Shelby is an invaluable component of our nation’s National Defense Strategy. With nearly 138,000 acres of training area, Camp Shelby offers a training environment that is fully adaptable to meet the needs of military units, as well as our civilian, industrial, and academic partners. The diverse terrain allows for realistic scenario-based training, enabling forces to practice coordinated operations across land, air, sea, space, and cyberspace domains. Camp Shelby’s support for the testing and evaluation of emerging technologies and equipment is crucial in preparing military formations for the challenges they will face in modern warfare. Exercises which integrate multi-services, multicomponent, and multi-national troops hosted by Camp Shelby over the last year serve as a model for increasing warfighter lethality across the DoD.”

**– Col. Lee Henry
Commander, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center**

CAMP SHELBY JOINT FORCES TRAINING CENTER



Established in 1917, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC), at approximately 138,000 acres, remains one of the largest state-owned National Guard training sites in the nation and a premier training venue for every branch and all components of U.S. military service. More than 80,000 service members and federal employees trained at the facility during State FY 2024. Camp Shelby used more than \$130 million in federal and state funds to enhance infrastructure and training capabilities, improving the overall experience of those who train and work at Camp Shelby.

CSJFTC’s mission is to serve as a Joint Accredited Training Site for the U.S. military and partner agencies providing an adaptable training location tailorable to the commander, senior trainer and unit training objectives. Camp Shelby provides a training site that integrates multi-domain, multi-functional and multi-national challenges in live, virtual, constructive, and distributive environments.

In State FY 2024, Camp Shelby maintained its Joint National Training Center accreditation and leveraged every entity of the Southeastern Defense Corridor as training enablers through a sophisticated use of range complexes including multiple Restricted Air Space Training Areas. Camp Shelby is also home to a Joint Maneuver Training Area with a C-17 Assault Strip and an air-to-ground range accessible from the Gulf, interconnected with the Air National Guard’s exercise range in the Gulf of Mexico.

Camp Shelby hosted the Thunder Strike 2024 exercise, a three-day individual and collective live-fire, free-play, force-on-force training event focused on platoon and company level operations. Select combat units faced a replicated near-peer adversary using a fully instrumented Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) to enable training and experimentation on emerging technologies while simultaneously validating Camp Shelby’s electronic warfare ranges.

Additionally, Camp Shelby hosted the Southern Strike, Operation Titan Warrior and Exportable Combat Training Center exercises. Major training units included the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Florida Army National Guard, the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Louisiana Army National Guard, the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi Army National Guard, the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment of the Tennessee Army National Guard, and the 290th Military Police Brigade of the Army Reserves.

During 2024, Camp Shelby personnel continued to have a voice in local, state, and national affairs through collaboration with the Area Development Partnership, the South Mississippi Planning and Development District, the Installation Commanders Council, and the Training

Center Command Advisory Council. First Army’s 177th Armored Brigade (Training) is the only active-duty Army unit permanently stationed at Camp Shelby. The installation is also the home of the University of Southern Mississippi’s Southern Regional Public Safety Institute, the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Academy, a detachment of the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy, Cyber Protection Team 178, and a military intelligence company.

Camp Shelby continues to prioritize environmental and natural resource stewardship demonstrating its commitment to maintaining a balanced and harmonious relationship between military operations and the surrounding ecosystem. Camp Shelby contributed to multiple wildlife preservation and ecosystem protection programs including the successful release of more than 400 captive-raised gopher tortoises back into their natural habitat.

As it has since 1917, Camp Shelby will remain fully committed to providing a world-class multi-domain training environment preparing the nation’s armed forces for complex and dynamic operations, facing the challenges of modern warfare with complete confidence and proficiency.





GULFPORT COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER

"The Combat Readiness Training Center is constantly evolving its operational training and testing capabilities to meet the changing demands of the modern battlefield. Through collaborative efforts with academia and industry partners, we have established a state-of-the-art electronic warfare range, providing our warfighters with a world-class training facility to prepare for emerging global threats. Our dedicated team is driven to create an unparalleled training experience, empowering our military personnel to refine their skills and stay ahead of the curve in an ever-changing operational landscape."

– Col. Robert Jeff Kirby
Commander, Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center

Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center: A Hub for Military Excellence

Located on the eastern edge of Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport at the Trent Lott National Guard Training Center, the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) has established itself as a premier training facility for military units. The CRTC's primary mission is to provide state-of-the-art facilities and training opportunities to enhance the combat readiness and capability of military units. Spanning 277 acres, the complex is home to the 255th Air Control Squadron, 209th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, and the Army National Guard's 1108th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group.



Comprehensive Training Environment

The Gulfport CRTC offers a unique, year-round training environment that replicates real-world deployment scenarios. Military members from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces benefit from the center's updated facilities and expert personnel. Between July 2023 and June 2024, the CRTC facilitated the training of 58 different units, providing them with the opportunity to engage in simulated deployments, flying operations, and combat exercises.

Community Engagement and Economic Impact

The Gulfport CRTC is deeply committed to community involvement, participating in programs such as Adopt-A-School, Chambers of Commerce, and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR). The center also provides support to local emergency services, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). With over 500 employees, including Active Guard/Reserve, Drill Status Guardsmen, federal employees, and state employees, the CRTC generates an annual payroll exceeding \$23 million. Additionally, the center's procurement activities inject an estimated \$9 million into the local economy, while visiting units and personnel create almost 200 indirect jobs, generating a further \$7.5 million in revenue.

Southern Strike 2024: A Showcase of Joint Combat Readiness

In March, the Gulfport CRTC hosted Southern Strike 2024, a joint combat exercise which brought together approximately 425 military personnel to operate directly from CRTC. The exercise allowed joint forces to deploy to the CRTC, Camp Shelby, and other Mississippi training sites, operating in a simulated expeditionary



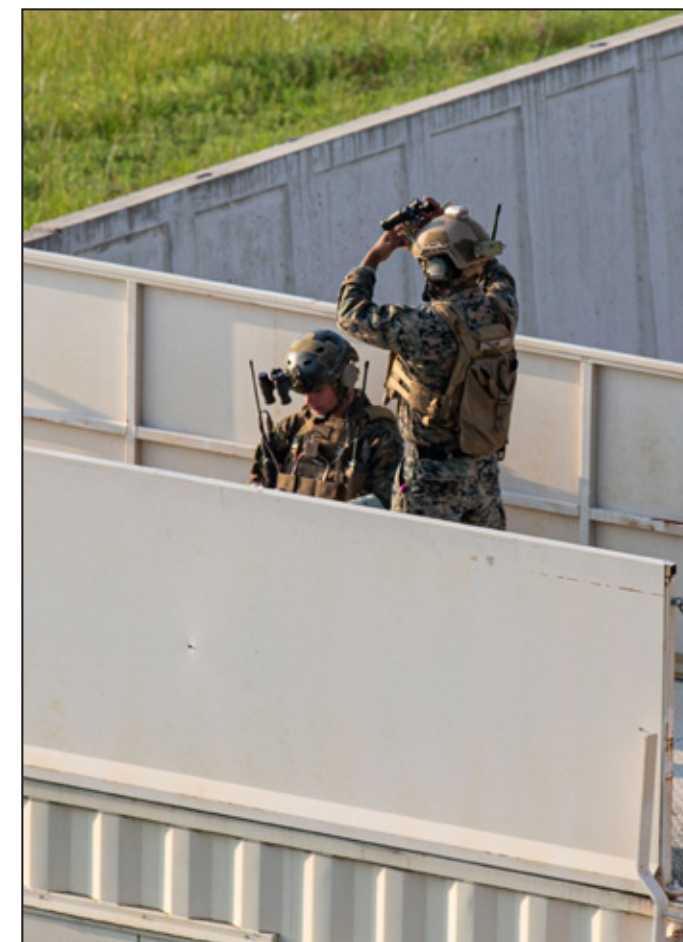
environment. The two-week exercise provided valuable training in contingency response operations, aeromedical evacuation, security forces airfield protection, and rotary aviation medevac and airlift.

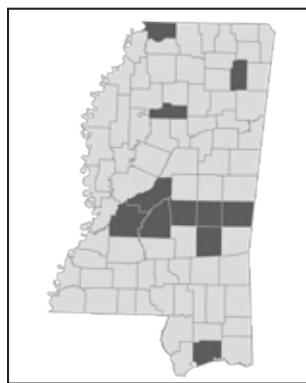
Range Operations and Readiness

The Camp Shelby Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range, also known as Rattlesnake Range, was established in 1970 and is maintained and upgraded by CRTC personnel. As of the end of FY24, Rattlesnake Range facilitated the use of over 8,000 rounds of ordinance since its opening, with recent activities including 173 air drops, 195,976 forward firing exercises, 315 bombs, and 2,150 sorties. The Rattlesnake Range plays a critical role in building readiness and supplementing flying training for Airmen and Soldiers, ensuring that units are prepared to deploy at a moment's notice to conflicts around the world.

The Gulfport Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation (ACMI) facilitated advanced air combat in the WhoDat Air-to-Air Complex by hosting 3,115 sorties and supporting over 10,000 sorties nationwide.

We hold deep pride in our coastal community as Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center is a world-class training facility that provides military units with the skills and expertise necessary to excel in combat environments. Through its comprehensive training programs, community engagement, and economic contributions, the CRTC plays a vital role in supporting the U.S. Armed Forces and the local community.





66TH TROOP COMMAND

"Through incredible leadership at all levels, hard work and a genuine concern for our Soldiers and their families, the 66th Troop Command and its subordinate units remains ready to fight to win our nation's wars and successfully respond to civil support requests from our state and nation. This past year was no different as many of our units successfully deployed both overseas and here in the US. I'm honored to be a part of such an incredible team of American Heroes, and on behalf of our Command Sergeant Major and Command Chief Warrant Officer, I want to thank all the Soldiers of the 66th TC for a job well done! Always doing our best while continuing to strive to do better!"

- Brig. Gen. Andrew Rendon,
Commander, 66th Troop Command

The 66th Troop Command (TC) has oversight of the 185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB); 1108th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG); 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (ADA); 112th Military Police Battalion; 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (SFG); Special Operations Detachment (SOD) South; 210th Finance Battalion (FN BN); 102nd Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD); 41st Army Band; and the 47th Civil Support Team (CST).

66th TC units returned from multiple deployments throughout the year. The 185th ECAB returned from a Central Command (CENTCOM) mission in Kuwait; the 112th MP BN HQ returned from the Southwest Border assisting U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and one of its companies returned from Alaska following security missions.

The 1108th TASMG headquarters detachment conducted a field training exercise to increase proficiency in occupying an aviation tactical assembly area, tactical convoy operations, and supply and support operations in a field environment. Co. A conducted sustainment



maintenance and Co. B collectively assisted with unit defense operations, motor pool operations, real-world military vehicle recoveries, and cross-trained refueling personnel in aviation refueling operations.

1-204th ADA participated in Annual Training at Camp McCain Training Center completing initial pre-mobilization training for the Radar and Avenger teams. Alpha Battery/1-204th ADA provided one Radar Team and one Avenger Platoon to participate in a Joint Readiness Training Center rotation at Fort Johnson, Louisiana, conducting radar operations and providing short-range air defense capabilities.

Members of the 112th MP BN Headquarters returned home in November 2023 after supporting the Southwest Border Mission for 13 months. While there, the unit managed three downtrace companies conducting surveillance and detection spanning over 450 miles of border. The 113th MP CO conducted a second rotation to Fort Greely, Alaska, guarding the installation and securing the ground-based midcourse defense system. Soldiers from the 113th MP CO and 114th MP CO also conducted security for Mississippi's 65th Governor Inauguration.

In FY 24, the 210th FN BN mobilized to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield while the 220th Finance Company, supporting Operation Big Easy, completed a successful external evaluation at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas. The 210th FN BN also supported multiple pre-mobilizations and redeployment missions at Fort Cavazos and Fort Bliss in Texas.

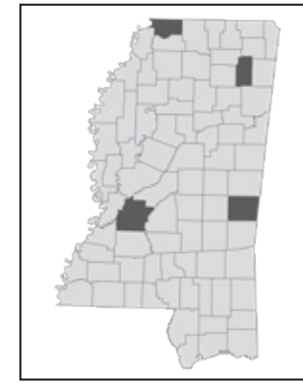
The 102nd MPAD supported multiple missions throughout the state during FY 24 including the Best Warrior Competition, numerous Changes of Command, and Exercise Southern Strike, a joint combat exercise comprised of units from all branches and components of the U.S. Armed Forces and military forces from partner nations.

The 41st Army Band supported more than 75 missions in Mississippi as well as several other missions outside the state including Fort Novosel, Alabama, and Mid-South Naval Base in Millington, Tennessee. The 41st Army Band, led by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Casey Kirk, is consistently recognized as one of the top-performing ensembles in the Army National Guard.

185TH AVIATION BRIGADE

"The 185th remains committed to strengthening readiness to fight and win our nation's wars. Abroad, we are the primary aviation maneuver force in support of the division's end state. At home, we are prepared and ready to conduct missions any time and place in support of the state, the Mississippi National Guard, and the United States of America."

- Col. Ashley Mills
Commander, 185th Aviation Brigade
and State Army Aviation Officer



The 185th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) and three of its subordinate units deployed or returned from deployment during FY 2024. Deployment locations included the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation New Normal, Operation Spartan Shield, and the UN Multi-Force Observer mission in Egypt.

The 185th assembled a skilled and capable brigade-level fighting force comprised of National Guard units from 11 states, an active-duty attack battalion, two multi-national partner force units from Italy and Spain, Army Reserve C-12 and UC-35 fixed-wing detachments, and a Gray Eagle Company. As the largest maneuver formation in the CENTCOM AOR, Task Force Pegasus' 2,100 Soldiers and maintenance contractors had an operational footprint that touched every country in the CENTCOM region. Force Protection challenges were heightened after the Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel, Oct. 7, 2023. Subject matter experts from all warfighting functions within the 185th ECAB provided liaison support at the Combined Joint Task Forces and adjacent units.

During their mobilization, the 185th ECAB moved over four million pounds of cargo, transported more than 9,000 passengers and distinguished visitors, and moved critical force protection assets providing increased protection for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and partner forces stationed throughout the AOR. The 185th ECAB returned to Mississippi in January 2024 after passing the mission to the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Liberty, North Carolina.

In recognition of the dedication and accomplishments of the 185th ECAB Soldiers during its deployment, the unit was recognized as the 2023 Army Aviation Association of America's (AAAA) Outstanding Army Aviation Unit of the Year. This monumental recognition has only been awarded to five National Guard units since the award was established.

The 1-185th Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) provides the capability to execute Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) operations and the full spectrum of combat Army aviation operations, displaying its superior skill sets during Southern Strike 2024. The unit is comprised of more than 500 Soldiers spread between

three geographic locations, Jackson, Meridian, and Tupelo, and operates every combat aircraft within the U.S. Army inventory.

The 1-185th AHB provided an assault company to the UN's mission in Egypt and provided rotary and fixed-wing aviation support to the Multinational Force & Observers (MFO) Army Aviation Company (AVCO). Rotary support consisted of eight UH-60L Blackhawk helicopters and fixed-wing support consisted of a C-12 Huron aircraft. AVCO runs simultaneous operations at two camps in two different geographical locations in Egypt fulfilling a variety of missions including civilian observer unit reconnaissance and air verification missions, liaison system support in facilitating meetings of the Treaty Parties, VIP transport, re-supply, command and control, training, visitor orientation, search and rescue, and round-the-clock aerial medical evacuation at both locations. AVCO performed its own maintenance within the Sinai and operated an aviation repair parts warehouse.

The 2-185th Airfield Operating Battalion (AOB) provides the capability to execute airfield operations and air traffic services, aeromedical evacuation, and aerial reconnaissance operations in support of Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) missions. The 2-185th is comprised of more than 180 Soldiers located in Southaven and Tupelo. In May 2024, HHC, 2-185 mobilized 39 Soldiers to the Horn of Africa (HOA) region to provide ATC operations in the AOR. The battalion executed its skill sets through participation in the State Counter Drug mission and will provide aviators and aviation assets to assist the U.S. Border Patrol in 2025.





47TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

"In our field you must train for the unexpected and you can't be afraid to fail. Failure and how your team responds is when you learn the most."

- Lt. Col. Len A. Fortenberry
Commander, 47th Civil Support Team



The 47th Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) is the Mississippi National Guard's technical first responders for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) threats. Possessing the ability to identify CBRNE agents/substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures, and assist the appropriate requests for follow-on state or federal resources, the CST provides the state with a broad range of capabilities and is on standby 24/7/365.

Providing these capabilities requires extensive training and a robust network of partnerships with civil authorities to ensure the CST is prepared to respond at a moment's notice. The expert Soldiers and Airmen of the CST receive hundreds of hours of HAZMAT training from agencies including FEMA, the Department of Energy, the DOJ, and the EPA. The CST deploys with state-of-the-art equipment providing a broad spectrum of secure communication capabilities, analytical laboratory systems and processes, as well as self-sufficient medical, logistical, and decontamination capabilities. During its highest response posture, "Gold", the 47th CST can deploy advanced assets nationwide, via ground or rapid airlift within 90 minutes.

The 47th CST displayed its ability, technical knowhow, and analytical expertise during "real world" incidents over the last year by supporting our state and federal partners. The CST provided security and protection during the Governor's Inauguration, the Gala event, and all other official inauguration day events. The team supported Oktibbeha County by responding to a radiation alarm at the county landfill, providing spectrum analysis and advising the county Emergency Management Director on

how to proceed. The CST was activated and positioned on standby in support of the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security in response to several "white powder" concerns and explosive hazards across the state.

The 47th CST worked to enhance Mississippi's partnership with its state partner Uzbekistan by planning and executing a domestic HAZMAT response training event. The initiative provided a new avenue in which Mississippi and Uzbekistan can develop lasting relationships and share common practices within CBRNE areas of expertise.

The 47th CST provided Joint Hazard Assessment Team (JHAT) support across the state and nation as part of the larger CBRNE Response Enterprise (CRE). Additionally, the team provides JHAT support to large scale local events within the state throughout the year including one of the largest car shows in the world, 'Crusin' the Coast October 2nd - 8th, Biloxi Mardi Gras February 9th - 14th, and all of the Mississippi State University and University of Mississippi SEC Football games.

The 47th CST conducts training with local, state, and federal agencies across Mississippi to strengthen partnerships, trust, and unified purpose for joint and cross agency coordination. The 47th CST planned and executed a combined training exercise on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in January 2024. Operation Neptune Strike saw participation from six of the nine CSTs from Region 4, four different local agencies, as well as the FBI's Jackson field office participating with their Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator. This event was the first of its kind for Region 4 with future plans for subsequent exercises following the success of the spearheaded efforts from the 47th CST.

154TH REGIMENT REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

"The 154th Regiment continues to be the premiere training site within the RTI community, successfully training more than 5,100 Soldiers in FY 2024. We continue expanding our courses as well as enhancing and expanding our infrastructure to provide a world class training environment for our leaders. We remain laser focused on continual improvement while simultaneously serving as a force multiplier. I look forward to another highly successful year for the 154th Regiment. Train to lead!"

- Lt. Col. Kenneth V. Anthony
Commander, 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute

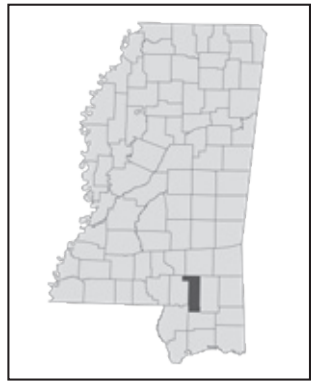
The 154th Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI) provides the highest quality institutional training to produce flexible and agile leaders who can achieve success in complex and uncertain operating environments. The cadre facilitate the most relevant, rigorous, and realistic professional military education available in support of the Army's operational force.

The 154th RTI is recognized as the premier National Guard Training Institution in the nation due to outstanding instruction, excellent facilities, cutting-edge technology and employment of instructors of the highest caliber. The Regiment remains an asset to all three components of the Army and continues to enhance strategic relationships with stakeholders.

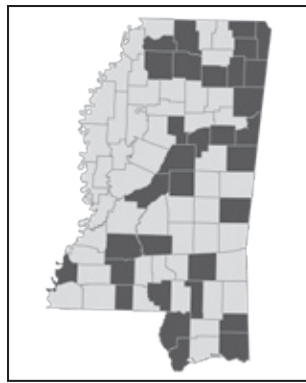
The 154th maintained an accredited and trained force to program, plan, and provide Soldiers training within assigned NCO Professional Development Systems, Career Management Fields, and Officer Candidate

Schools to empower Soldiers with the ability to solve complex problems through effective implementation of Mission Command, creating a professional and disciplined learning environment. The achieved end-state is unparalleled support to the One Army School System (OASS) that trains future leaders in accordance with the Total Army Concept. Additionally, the 154th RTI provided support as required to the governor and state of Mississippi with Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) in the event of natural and man-made disasters.

The vision for RTI is to maintain a professional, value-based organization that ensures the Army force is "Ready Now," prompt, and able to deploy, fight, and win our nation's wars through the implementation of mission command, stewardship of the seven Army Values, Army Learning Concept for Training and Education, and the Army Enterprise Accreditation Standards.



5,133
Students Trained During FY 2024



155TH ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

“As one of the premier combat organizations in the United States Army, the 155th ABCT has once again answered the call to deploy and deter our nation’s adversaries across the globe. As our formations return from their global commitments, the 155th ABCT will continue to train and build readiness so that we will be ready when called to support both our state and nation in the future.”

**- Col. Christopher Cooksey
Commander, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team**

Headquartered in Tupelo, the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) is Mississippi’s largest unit. The 155th continued building readiness through its training efforts this year, culminating with its TY24 Annual Training period throughout the early summer of 2024. As one of five Armored Brigades in the National Guard, and one of sixteen in the Total Force, the 155th provides additional capacity to the Army when called upon to execute its federal mission. The brigade is also postured to provide an array of capabilities to support its state mission to respond to natural and manmade disasters. Over the past training year, the 155th leadership and Soldiers worked with multiple partners to train, equip, and strengthen the brigade through readiness, capability, and capacity by participating in Thunder Strike III, Operation Spartan Shield, and Joint Mission Training Group-Ukraine.

The 155th is comprised of a headquarters company and seven battalions: Headquarters and Headquarters Company in Tupelo; 1-98th Cavalry headquartered in Amory; 2-198th Armored Regiment headquartered in Senatobia; 1-635th Armored Regiment headquartered in Kansas City, Kansas; 1-155th Infantry headquartered in McComb; 2-114th Field Artillery headquartered in Starkville; 150th Brigade Engineer Battalion headquartered in Meridian; and the 106th Brigade Support Battalion headquartered in Hattiesburg.

The 2-198th Armored Regiment and the 150th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB) executed Thunderstrike III, maneuvering against a near-peer threat in a cyber-electromagnetic (CEMA) contested environment. This four-day event immersed the warfighter in real, dynamic training and simulations using emerging CEMA technologies against a “near-peer” force. 150th BEB’s horizontal construction company emplaced a trench system replicating current systems abroad, bringing realism to the exercise. The battalion’s Military Intelligence Company supported 2-198th’s maneuver providing intelligence and executing the kill-chain throughout the battle space. Thunderstrike III exercise brought real, tough, and rigorous training to the Soldiers of the brigade highlighting Camp Shelby as a premier location to develop multi-domain operations.

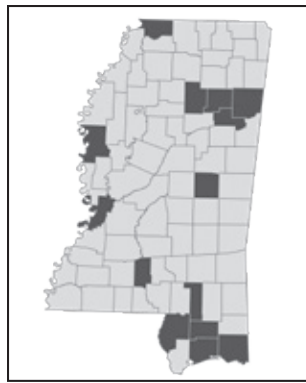
Task Force Reaper, 1-155th Infantry Regiment, returned home in April 2024 after a successful nine-month deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS).

The 1-155th conducted fifteen multinational and joint training exercises across eight countries. These exercises had a strategic impact on strengthening and increasing the interoperability with partner nations throughout the U.S. Central Command’s (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AoR). Exercises included: Arabian Gulf Gunnery and Red Sands, both in Saudi Arabia; Dynamic Entry; Jade Cobra 1, 2, & 3 in Jordan; Iron Union in UAE; Ferocious Falcon 5 in Qatar; and Al Tahree in Kuwait. One of the notable training events was Exercise Bright Star, which builds on strategic security relationships between Egypt and the United States. Bright Star is one of the longest-running exercises in CENTCOM’s AoR: this year was the 18th iteration of the exercise and the second for 1-155th IN.

Task Force Reaper, 1-635th Armored Regiment, is currently deployed in support of OSS conducting Exercise Eager Lion 24 in Jordan. Task Force Reaper (1-155th and 1-635th) led the exercises through participating as the primary maneuver force helping promote and enhance regional security, cooperation, and interoperability in irregular warfare and hybrid threat scenarios.

Elements of the 155th ABCT Headquarters Company and the 1-98th CAV deployed to Germany in support of Joint Mission Training Group-Ukraine to train partner forces and provide combat-ready capacity and proven capabilities in support of both federal and state missions.





184TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

"The 184th Sustainment Command (ESC) is a Major Subordinate Command (MSC) based in Monticello, Mississippi. It is tasked with planning, coordinating, synchronizing, and controlling operational-level sustainment operations for the Army service component commander, joint task force, or Joint Force Headquarters. The ESC provides mission command over the 168th Engineer Brigade, 223rd Engineer Battalion, 890th Engineer Battalion, 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 114th Digital Liaison Detachment, and Cyber Protection Team 178. In peace time, the ESC builds readiness through training opportunities and provides crisis response in support of Mississippians and neighboring states."

– Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Thomas
Commander, 184th Sustainment Command



The 184th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) brings professional-level support to the MSNG in the way of engineering, transportation, and sustainment capabilities. Our priorities are responding alongside other state agencies, local community leaders, and our sister units to help the residents of Mississippi with crisis response and community improvement projects.

Led by Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Thomas and Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley T. Williams, the 184th Sustainment Command is authorized 2,360 Soldiers who serve with several component commands in support, engineering, and cyber protection roles.

Over the past year, the 114th Digital Liaison Detachment (DLD) conducted extensive training in digital information management and communications interface capabilities, partnering with the Allied Rapid Response Corps (ARRC) in the United Kingdom for Avenger Triad 24. The ARRC is a Corps-level NATO staff made up of 24 countries and is one of five corps taking part in Avenger Triad 24, the largest war fighter exercise to date.

The 168th Engineer Brigade deployed to the Middle East where they managed 500 design and construction missions across six countries valued at over \$75 million. The 223rd Engineer Battalion (EN BN) conducted joint training exercises with the 14th Medical Group at Columbus Air Force Base while two of its engineer companies, the 288th and 289th, supported Thunder Strike 24 and constructed sidewalks and shooting pads at Camp Shelby. The 890th EN BN deployed to the Southwest Border while its three engineer companies, the 857th, 858th and 859th, supported infantry training,

led community outreach events and provided construction support to the Mississippi Toughest Kids Foundation at Camp Kamassa in Crystal Springs.

The 367th Maintenance Company (SMC) returned from a nine-month deployment to Grafenwoehr, Germany, and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in support of the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI), facilitating theater-level maintenance operations while repairing and servicing more than 475 pieces of equipment.

The 1387th Quartermaster Company participated in the CENTAM Guardian 24 exercise in Honduras and purified more than 6,000 gallons of water from the Caribbean Sea in support of this exercise.

The 1687th Transportation Company helped with the movement of a UH-1 Huey from the city of Sumrall to AVCRAD in Gulfport and transported M109 Paladins and M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles from locations across the state to Camp Shelby.

The 298th Headquarters Detachment participated in a Tier 1 Command Post Exercise (CPX) Austere Challenge 24 in Kaiserslautern, Germany, as the Forward Operational Command Post for the 21st Theater Sustainment Command.

The 3656th Classification and Inspection Company performed technical inspections of equipment for the 367th SMC and 1-185th Aviation Regiment after returning from their respective deployments, inspecting more than 170 pieces of equipment.

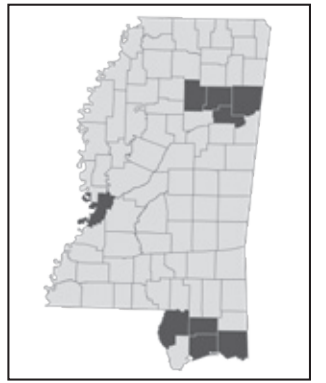
The 284th and 285th Field Feeding Teams participated in the R&R BN Culinary Cook-Off at Clinton High School. This event consisted of more than 60 students from across Mississippi cooking with ingredients found in Meals Ready to Eat (MREs).

Cyber Protection Team (CPT) 178 is a tri-state cyber unit comprised of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, with the mission to conduct defensive cyberspace operations in support of the state and nation. Over the last year, the team was heavily involved in training exercises including Thunder Strike 24, Southern Strike 24, and continued its collaborative efforts with local academia and the Mississippi Cyber Initiative.

168TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

"It is an honor to lead the Soldiers who form the backbone of the engineer mission—builders, problem solvers, and warriors whose dedication knows no limits. Whether it's the Soldiers of the 890th Engineer Battalion supporting at our borders or the 223rd Engineer Battalion shaping the terrain abroad, their work transforms challenges into victories, turning obstacles into pathways to success. Their skill, sacrifice, and resolve prove that no mission is impossible, and no frontier is unreachable. Every day, they exemplify and showcase the exceptional engineering expertise and talent within the ranks of Mississippi's finest, the 168th Engineer Brigade. Essayons!"

– Col. Thomas Howell
Commander, 168th Engineer Brigade



The 168th Engineer Brigade (EN BDE), headquartered in Vicksburg, deployed to the Middle East over the past year as the Theater Engineer Brigade (TEB). Under the leadership of Col. Kendrick L. Cager and Command Sgt Maj. Joseph Cook, they managed 500 design and construction missions across six countries valued at over \$75 million. The 168th EN BDE consists of the 223rd Engineer Battalion (EN BN) and the 890th EN BN.

The 223rd EN BN from West Point conducted joint training exercises with the 14th Medical Group at Columbus Air Force Base. The 288th Engineer Company (EN CO) from Houston provided engineer support to Operation Thunderstrike at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center near Hattiesburg. The 289th EN CO from Bruce constructed sidewalks consisting of more than 29 cubic yards of concrete and 16 concrete shooting pads at Camp Shelby.

The 890th EN BN from Gulfport deployed to the

Southwest Border in Tucson, Arizona, where they managed three units conducting border support missions in the region. The 858th EN CO from Calhoun City, supported an infantry brigade from Hawaii in a significant training exercise and led a community outreach event in Calhoun City.

The 859th EN CO from Pascagoula and the 857th EN CO from Picayune provided construction to the Mississippi Toughest Kids Foundation at Camp Kamassa, located in Crystal Springs. Using Mississippi National Guard assets during their annual training saved the foundation more than \$500,000 in labor costs as the two engineer companies provided more than 5,500 hours of construction operations.

The 168th EN BDE recently conducted a change of command between Col. Rob Enochs and Col. Thomas Howell. Col. Howell assumed command of the brigade Dec. 8, 2024.





MISSISSIPPI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

"The Mississippi Air National Guard proudly serves our state and nation with rapid global mobility and agile combat support. Our Airmen and civil members are ready, trained, and equipped to meet foreign and domestic challenges in a constantly changing world. Together, we Fly, Fight and Win with skill, innovation, and competitive spirit to preserve the American way of life."

**– Maj. Gen. Edward H. Evans Jr.
MSNG Assistant Adjutant General - Air**

The Mississippi Air National Guard (MSANG), comprised of approximately 2,600 active and traditional Guardsmen and with three active bases in Mississippi, is a vital component of the state's military presence. The MSANG provides critical capabilities in defense, emergency response, and national security efforts.

The 172nd Airlift Wing at Allen C. Thompson Field in Flowood operates nine C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, providing strategic airlift for federal and state missions. The Wing possesses one of only nine Air National Guard aeromedical evacuation squadrons providing aircrews and equipment ensuring the 98% survivability rate of service members injured in combat. The 172nd also oversees the 255th Air Control Squadron, which provides theater aircraft surveillance, and the 209th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron (SOCES), the only Air National Guard unit to operate the self-sustaining Collective Protective Small Shelter System-3, which provides a safe environment from chemical, biological, and radiological contamination.

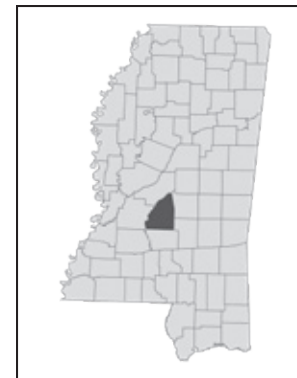
The 186th Air Refueling Wing at Key Field in Meridian operates eight KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft, providing the core aerial refueling capability for the U.S. Air Force and capable of transporting cargo and both litter and ambulatory patients. The 186th also manages

three specialized units providing support to warfighters and civilian partners; the 248th Air Traffic Control Squadron, responsible for all air traffic control operations at Key Field and provides deployed tower and radar capability; the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, which provides the interface between supported Army units and air combat support units; and the 186th Air Operations Group, which provides staff augmentation to 1st Air Force in support of homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities.

The Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC), located on 277 acres in Gulfport, provides an integrated, year-round, realistic training environment for units up to wing size. The CRTC facilities include ramp space for up to 100 fighter aircraft, 11,000 square miles of airspace over the Gulf of Mexico, an air-to-ground bombing range on Camp Shelby, and accommodations for up to 1,000 personnel. The CRTC plays a key logistics role in the MSNG's civil support mission, often serving as the operations center for domestic response, while also supporting the local community and promoting economic growth and development.

The MSANG hosts Exercise Southern Strike (SSTK), an annual large-scale, joint training exercise at the Gulfport CRTC. As the host unit, the MSANG provides aircraft, personnel, and equipment to support training events, connecting units from the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, active-duty and reserve military, as well as international partners. The exercise is a unique opportunity for units to train together and develop their skills in a realistic and challenging environment. SSTK helps demonstrate the MSANG's commitment to joint training and interoperability, helping to ensure its units are prepared to respond to a wide range of scenarios, from natural disasters to combat operations. The exercise has a significant economic impact on the state of Mississippi, with an estimated annual injection of over \$10 million into the local economy, supporting local businesses and generating revenue for hotels, restaurants, and other establishments.





172ND AIRLIFT WING

"In the evolving character of war, the 172nd Airlift Wing is relentlessly driving the change we need to win. Our elite Airmen stay mission-ready by pioneering programs and systems that are developing skills beyond their primary jobs, while reoptimizing our organization and fleet of C-17s for seamless integration into the Joint Force. We maintain our intent to be the most responsive, resourceful, and respected airlift wing in the nation."

– Col. Britt A. Watson
Commander, 172nd Airlift Wing

During state fiscal year 2024, the 172nd Airlift Wing achieved remarkable success in fulfilling its mission, enhancing operational capabilities, and contributing significantly to state and national defense initiatives. The Wing amassed 3,888 flying hours encompassing 156 missions and completed 797 operational sorties, transporting 6,260 tons of cargo across multiple theaters. In addition, the Wing provided critical transport services for 8,738 passengers and 1,037 patients.

The 172nd Airlift Wing provided significant support to both state and national efforts. A key highlight was the unit's support of state senior leadership during their staff ride to Normandy, France, in honor of the 80th anniversary of D-Day. This mission paid homage to the historical significance of the D-Day invasion and demonstrated the Wing's ability to support high-level engagements with precision.

The 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was vital in multiple global operations throughout the year. Their deployment supported military and humanitarian efforts, reinforcing the squadron's worldwide reach and commitment to delivering life-saving care in diverse environments. Similarly, the 255th Air Control Squadron was deployed in support of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) operations.

Training and readiness were crucial focuses of the Wing. The 172nd Communications Squadron participated in Operation Thunder Strike, an exercise aimed at enhancing cyber protection skills. Additionally, the Wing, with support from the Mississippi Army National Guard, conducted Operation Vital Force, an exercise that tested the readiness and operational capabilities of the 172nd Medical Group, 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and 172nd Force Support Squadron.

The 172nd Maintenance Group and the 172nd Operations Group also conducted Operation Iron Magnolia, further honing their skills in aircraft maintenance and operational efficiency. This exercise emphasized collaboration and operational effectiveness, ensuring that both groups were ready to respond to mission requirements.

The Wing continued their partnership with the Salvation Army and Digio Strategies in their annual "Flight

to the North Pole" event. This initiative, aimed at bringing joy to underserved children, involved delivering gifts and holiday cheer to underprivileged communities during the holiday season.

The 172nd Airlift Wing made significant contributions to the state's economy in FY 2024. The Wing's total federal appropriations amounted to \$59,795,133, with a total federal economic impact of \$60,763,616. This financial support bolstered the Wing's operational capabilities and contributed to the state's economic stability.

The Wing has been recognized as one of the top five units nationwide in Total Force Medical Readiness. This achievement is a testament to the Wing personnel's ability to maintain their medical fitness and readiness to deploy at a moment's notice.





186TH AIR REFUELING WING

KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft assigned to the 186th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), Key Field Air National Guard Base (ANGB), fly overhead as Fred and Al Key did 89 years ago in their modified Curtis-Robbins aircraft named the "Ole Miss." Key Field has undergone significant

changes since Fred and Al accomplished their record setting flight, flying non-stop for 27 days over the fields, pastures, and cities of East Central Mississippi. We are proud to say that, while most of the old buildings are now just memories, the pioneering practices of the Key brothers persist worldwide and air-to-air refueling thrives.

Since being federally recognized in 1939 to support stateside missions and worldwide contingency operations, the 186th ARW has expertly provided rapid global mobility and agile combat support to our state and nation. The 186th achieves its aerial refueling mission with eight KC-135s. Additionally, the Wing supports Air Forces Northern Command, Air Forces Space Command, Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA), and humanitarian and emergency response missions. Additional units include the 186th Air Operations Group, the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron, and the 248th Air Traffic Control Squadron (ATCS).

During FY24, our aircraft left an indelible impact around the world by keeping air assets fueled and in the fight. We flew a total of 1,976 flight hours and offloaded more than 5.7 million pounds of fuel to over 660 receiver aircraft directly involved in Department of Defense operations.



As one of the largest employers in East Central Mississippi, with 448 full-time employees and almost 800 traditional guard personnel, the 186th ARW received more than \$86 million in appropriations which were infused into the local economy. The estimated value of the jobs created in FY 2024 was more than \$9.1 million with a total impact of more than \$92.8 million.

In addition to its major contribution to the local economy, the 186th ARW provides 100% airport fire protection, all tower air traffic control services and nearly 260 secondary jobs. The Key Field Air Traffic Control (ATC) Tower, operated by the 248th ATCS, is the busiest in the state for military and commercial traffic and second busiest in the Air National Guard. Over \$700,000 in federal funds are provided annually by the Federal Aviation Administration for tower operations. In FY24, the ATC tower facilitated more than 91,260 arrivals/departures and nearly 46,531 instrument arrivals/departures. The base's Fire Department provides 100% of crash/fire rescue services to all civilian, commercial, and military aircraft at Key Field.

In the past year, more than 540 members of the unit deployed to 35 locations worldwide in support of numerous operations and task forces. The wing also participated in Operation Centennial Contact as part of a three-state flyover event celebrating the U.S. Air Force's 100th anniversary of aerial refueling.

Through selfless service, the men and women of Key Field gave time, talent and resources to the local community, donating more than \$1,200 to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Wing members supported the Special Olympics and Wreaths Across America, and hosted the annual Dancing with the Greatest Generation senior citizens' social. Each year, the base provides media/orientation flights and base tours to joint senior leaders, spouses, employers, civic leaders and school groups. To say thank you to families of our airmen who sacrifice so much, the base hosts an annual Fall Festival and Family Day, reaching thousands and providing fellowship and the opportunity for families to connect.

Looking to the future, the 186th ARW is working alongside our state and federal congressional delegations on several base improvements. We recently celebrated the return of the KC-135 flight simulator and will soon break ground on a new state-of-the-art fitness facility and a new 100% state-funded Crash/Fire Rescue Station, with numerous other installation upgrades in the planning stages.

From 110 members in 1939, to upwards of 1,100 Airmen in 2024 – the men and women of Key Field assemble in the Queen City every month. As a unit, the 186th continues to honor and build upon our legacy of outstanding performance every single day.

"The 186th is thankful to our state and national leaders for the unprecedented investments made that will directly affect quality of life and improve infrastructure, posturing Key Field for future missions."

**– Col. Cynthia L. Smith
Commander, 186th Air Refueling Wing**





MSNG CYBER PROTECTION TEAM 178

"I am proud of the way our Cyber Soldiers provide cyber effects in a military environment and vital training in a classroom setting. Cybersecurity continues to rapidly evolve with new technologies and discoveries. Our Cyber Soldiers remain committed to growing and developing as they hone their critical skills in securing infrastructure and providing invaluable training to those who operate in Cyberspace."

– Capt. William T. Hill
Commander, Cyber Protection Team 178

The Cyber Protection Team (CPT) 178 is a tri-state cyber unit comprised of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Detachment 2, CPT 178, is the element currently stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and commanded by Capt. William T. Hill II with Staff Sgt. Zachariah McCullough serving as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge. The unit maintains professionally trained, expertly skilled, Soldiers with the mission to conduct defensive cyberspace operations in support of the state and nation.

During FY 2024, the CPT was heavily involved in the development and execution of a cyber range environment while supporting multiple exercises focused on multi-domain operations. These exercises allowed the unit to demonstrate the significant cyber capabilities available to conventional forces, including the 155th Armored

Brigade Combat Team during Thunder Strike 2024, and unconventional forces, including the 20th Special Forces Group and foreign partner forces during Southern Strike 2024. Separate from the focus of military operations, the CPT has continued collaborative efforts with local academia and the Mississippi Cyber Initiative.

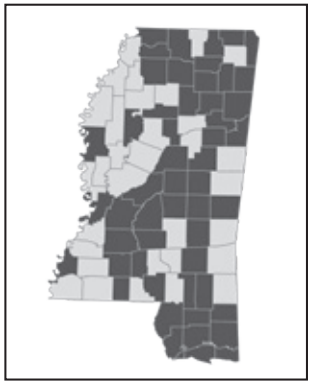
The Cyber Protection Team adapts continuously to the ever-changing digital front. The consistent threats to both public and private sectors are unique to cyberspace. A foundation of collaboration and partnership with government agencies, educational institutions, and the Department of Defense ensures the best possible protection of digital assets. Recent work with the Mississippi Cyber Initiative and planned exercises help to foster the training and education of future cyber workforces.



CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

"The dedicated professionals of the CFMO team assure that the readiness of the facilities within the MSARNG support our Soldiers and communities daily. The focus of this team of professionals is to provide our service members the best facilities for both their state and federal missions."

– Col. Rick Weaver
Construction & Facilities Management Officer



The Construction and Facilities Management Office (CFMO) maintains a diverse array of facilities throughout the state of Mississippi, supporting more than 8,000 Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG) Soldiers together with the vehicles, aircraft, and equipment they use and operate. This organization continues to maximize the talent of more than 300 professionals who provide expertise in all facets of construction and facility management. The continued goal for this organization is to ascertain the facility management and environmental requirements of our stakeholders and to leverage state and federal resources to meet those requirements.

The CFMO operates and maintains approximately seven million square feet of facility space and approximately 152,000 acres. This organization maintains 59 Readiness Centers, 10 Field Maintenance Shops (FMS), and 4 Army Aviation Support Facilities (AASF), including an Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD). In addition to maintaining these facilities, the CFMO also provides base operations services to Camp Shelby and Camp McCain.

FY24 proved to be a challenging year due to the extended continuing resolution; however, the CFMO still executed over \$70 million in Military Construction (MILCON) projects, sustainment and modernization, and maintenance and repair. The year was highlighted by the completion of a new, \$21 million, 40,000 square foot Field Maintenance Shop in Brandon. The CFMO currently has four MILCON Construction Projects totaling over \$150 million under construction or in design. These projects are the Camp Shelby MATES 12-bay addition, two Energy Resilience Conservation Investment Program

(ERCIP) projects at Camp Shelby, an addition to the Corinth Readiness Center, and new readiness centers in Southaven and Amory.

The Mississippi Legislature continues to support the MSARNG by virtue of appropriations for Camp Shelby MATES overhead storage, a Camp Shelby Demarcation Building, and increased maintenance and repair funding for readiness centers. The MSARNG also utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to improve the drainage basins and install a water well filtration system at Camp Shelby along with chiller replacement projects at Camp Shelby and the St. Martin Readiness Center. In addition to new construction, more than 1,060 maintenance and repair work orders were processed and completed in 2024, totaling more than \$5 million.

The CFMO's Environmental Branch coordinated PFAS monitoring and clean-up at multiple sites. The Cultural Resources section received the First Place Award for Environmental Security for Large Installations from the National Guard Bureau (NGB) this year. They also received a grant from the National Public Lands Day DoD Legacy Program to develop a World War II Historical Park on Camp Shelby.

The year was headlined by the CFMO hosting the Army National Guard Facilities Engineer and Environmental Advisory Council's national meeting at the University of Southern Mississippi's Long Beach Campus. CFMO personnel from 54 states and territories, along with NGB Installations and Environmental staff, attended this annual event to discuss national issues, facilitate dialog between the states and NGB, and to exchange business practices.

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

"In my opinion, the Mississippi National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Academy is one of the most impactful social programs in the state."

– Retired Lt. Col. John B. Stringer
Director, MS Youth ChalleNGe Academy

"Accept the ChalleNGe"

The mission of the Mississippi National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Academy is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16 to 18-year-old youths who may have experienced academic difficulties in traditional high school settings, dropped out of high school, exhibited problem behaviors, or in some cases, have had minor legal issues. The Youth ChalleNGe Academy aims to produce graduates with values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens. Since its inception in 1994, the Mississippi YCA has had more than 11,600 graduates.



MSNG OUTREACH SERVICES

"Our organization has consistently demonstrated its resilience and adaptability in the face of challenges year after year. Through unwavering commitment, our team continues to support service members, veterans, and their families, providing essential programs that empower them to stay resilient and accomplish the mission of the National Guard."

– Danielle Richards,
Outreach Services / Military and Family Readiness Manager

The Mississippi National Guard Outreach Services Program provides essential statewide services and dedicated resources to improve the quality of life for our service members and their families. The designated resources enhance the readiness, resiliency, retention, and recruitment of service members while providing necessary assistance in times of need to strengthen the partnership among commands, service members, families, and communities.

Mississippi National Guard Outreach Services programs include education, Work for Warriors, Employer Support, Family Programs, Youth Programs, Yellow Ribbon, risk reduction, resilience, Suicide Prevention, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Funeral Honors, casualty assistance, Survivor Outreach, and transition assistance.

Our Family Program specialists work closely with more than 8,000 Soldiers and their families. The Work for Warriors Mississippi (WFWMS) program is responsible for producing 353 direct hires, providing more than 4,000 Soldiers with employment services support, and paying over \$6.5 million of incentives to service members. Over the last year, service members used \$500,000 in Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA), over \$3.2 million from the State Educational Assistance Program (SEAP) and \$1.3 million from the GI Bill.

The WFWMS mission is to prepare and connect members of the armed forces and their immediate families with employment and education opportunities that align with Mississippi's in-demand industries. It routinely works alongside job seekers to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to succeed. WFWMS team consists of a program manager, community outreach coordinator, CRM administrator, career technical specialist, a three-person marketing team, and five employment coordinators across the state to guide service members and their families through every step of the employment process.

The MSNG Education and Incentives office offers several functions to the men and women of the MSNG, including education guidance counseling, education funding counseling, processing of the GI Bill, Federal Tuition Assistance, and the State Educational Assistance Program. The MSNG Education office also maintains oversight and functionality of the incentives used by the Guard for recruiting and retention efforts. It administers the Army Personnel Testing program, testing hundreds of service members and potential recruits annually. In FY



2024, the Incentives Team assisted enlisted Soldiers and officers with 950 pay transactions in the Select Reserve Incentive Program, totaling more than \$9 million. The team also assisted service members in benefiting from the Student Loan Repayment Program, totaling more than \$1.3 million in student loans paid.



DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY SUPPORT

"The Directorate of Military Support collaborates throughout the year with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency as well as numerous other state, local, and federal agencies to ensure the Mississippi National Guard is ready to respond to natural or man-made disasters. Maintaining close relationships with emergency management officials is one of my highest priorities, because those relationships are critical to achieving unity of effort during a crisis. We leverage opportunities to participate in joint domestic exercises to test our response capabilities which leads to refinement of our response plan and enhanced preparedness for emergency response missions."

– Col. Jeremy R. Parker
Director of Military Support



Overview of Inauguration Participation

At the 2024 Governor's inauguration, the Air National Guard presented the colors and raised the flag on stage, symbolizing the collective pride and patriotism of the state. A contingent from Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center executed a 19-gun salute, honoring the significance of the occasion. The 41st Army Band provided musical accompaniment and Army aviation units conducted an aerial flyover, a highlight that captured the attention of all attendees. On the ground, the 112th Military Police managed traffic and parade logistics.

Patriot Exercise 2024

In February 2024, the Directorate of Military Support (DOMS) launched the Patriot Exercise, a significant training operation across Mississippi. This exercise is part of the Patriot Exercise Program, designed to create a joint training environment where National Guard Soldiers and Airmen can rigorously test their military and life-saving skills. The exercise simulates responses to domestic catastrophes, both natural and man-made, providing realistic scenarios for military and civilian Domestic Operations (DOMOPS) organizations.

2024 Hurricane Exercise

As the 2024 hurricane season approached, the Directorate of Military Support (DOMS) conducted the 2024 Hurricane Exercise at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. This exercise brought together leadership from across the state to develop a comprehensive response plan for potential tropical storm events. Roles and responsibilities were clearly defined during the exercise, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response. The plan is approved by the Adjutant General of Mississippi, affirming the National Guard's preparedness for the upcoming hurricane season.



2/20TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

"The battalion remains the premier Special Operations element in the National Guard. The unit continues to conduct counter-terrorism missions abroad while preparing for our nation's future challenges. The unit's focus is on irregular warfare operations and activities across all domains in support of large-scale combat operations against our peer competitors."

– Lt. Col. Ellis C. Monk
Commander, 2/20th Special Forces Group



The 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group Airborne (SFG-A), consisting of six companies across the states of Mississippi, Maryland, and Indiana, works by, with, and through partner forces to conduct unconventional warfare as well as foreign internal defense. The 2/20th SFG(A) is among the most deployed and active units in the entire Army National Guard. In 2024, C/2/20th completed a deployment to the Central Command (CENTCOM) theater conducting Defeat-ISIS operations across Iraq and Syria. Two SF Operational Detachment Alpha teams from C/2/20th successfully supported contingency operations in Egypt and central Asia during six-month rotations. HQ/2/20th and B/2/20th participated in Southern Strike 24-2, a joint multi-national training exercise focused on SOF support to conventional forces in a large-scale combat operations environment.

To enhance interoperability among partner forces, 2/20th SFG(A) conducted joint combined exchange trainings (JCETs) in Bulgaria and Poland to support Special Operations Command Europe's (SOCEUR) theater objectives countering Russian aggression. E/2/20th, Forward Support Company, conducted Special Forces Basic Combat Course for Support (SFBCC-S) as their annual training in Montana. This training focused on individual Soldier tasks encompassing the "shoot, move, communicate, sustain" methodology allowing each support Soldier to increase their tactical acumen and better augment Special Forces Operational Detachments while deployed.

The Battalion sent more than 100 personnel across nine countries during the fiscal year. The Battalion

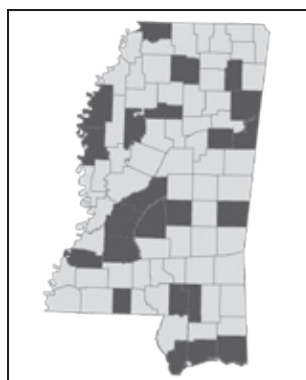
training culminated with SSTK 24-2 across Mississippi and Alabama and in cooperation with Poland, Uzbekistan, and Indo-Pacific Command partners. This training exercise was the first time in Special Forces and National Guard Bureau history for a Subject Matter Expert Exchange with a NATO partner utilizing U.S. Army Special Operations, Military Free Fall (MFF) parachutes and systems.

The battalion staff focused on the implementation of a new Special Operations Command (SOCOM) initiative for improved readiness and resilience called Human Performance and Wellness (HPW), a program calling for physical, mental, and emotional health awareness. During the year, a civilian counselor completed over 600 individual engagements and moved approximately 100 service members to higher levels of care. The initiative culminated in a Traumatic Brain Injury Qualitative study focusing on mental health and the effects of allostatic stress on 18 series operators due to persistent high operational tempo. The study incorporates Brain Tap, an instructor guided mental meditation and frequency immersion therapy application. Once complete, the findings will be shared with the National Guard Bureau and 1st SFC (A) for implementation.

SOD-South

Special Operations Detachment South (SOD-S) is a Task Force-level command organized to coordinate and lead special operations anywhere in the world. SOD-S missions focus on conducting special operations at the strategic and operational levels with an emphasis on Central and South America.

In early FY 2024, SOD-S was tasked with leading and executing Southern Star 23 near Santiago, Chile. Southern Star 23 is a Chilean-led bilateral, operational-level, joint staff exercise with partner nation observers from Brazil, Spain, and Argentina. SOD-S served as the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force with Chilean SOF in a scenario designed to enhance multinational operational readiness, interoperability, and security cooperation amongst U.S. and Chilean Forces. During Southern Star 23, SOD-S shared lessons learned from past deployments, enabling Chilean SOF to strengthen security interests and building long lasting relationships with current and future leaders within Chilean special operations.



RECRUITING & RETENTION

"The Mississippi Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion is dedicated to transitioning highly qualified applicants into combat ready Soldiers prepared to accomplish state and federal objectives. We will remain laser focused on expanding our relationships with command teams, educators, and employers that play a critical role in developing and supporting our Mississippi service members. I'm honored to command an organization that is the first step in inspiring and empowering Mississippians to join and serve with honor, dedication, and integrity."

— Lt. Col. Alonzo Crosby
Commander, MSNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion



The Mississippi Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion is headquartered at the Mississippi National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi. The battalion consists of more than 150 Active Guard Reserve (full-time) personnel and serves as the major command within the Mississippi Army National Guard tasked with recruiting and retention across the more than 48,000 square miles and nearly 3 million citizens in the state of Mississippi.

In addition to core tenet missions of recruiting, retention and attrition management, the battalion also provides robust initial training preparation to over 1,000 trainees through 10 Recruit Sustainment Program training sites strategically located throughout the state. The unit also maintains 12 commercial store front locations for recruiting and retention operations across the state. Downtrace units include Headquarters, Headquarters Company, in Jackson, Alpha Company in Grenada, and Bravo Company in Hattiesburg.

The battalion remains a national leader due in large part to its aggressive posture and grassroots recruiting efforts. Some recurring annual events include high school and collegiate athletic program sponsorships, academic mentorship, career counseling and job skills training. The unit is proud to have a select group of highly qualified and motivated drill sergeants to facilitate new Soldier preparation. The drill sergeants also host "Drill Sergeant Experience" events designed to introduce athletes at Mississippi high schools and universities to current Army physical fitness standards through highly challenging, immersion-styled events.

The quarterly "Battle Hand Off" program formally congratulates Soldiers upon completion of Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. Coupled with this program is the "Guard for Life" program focused on retaining Soldiers in the Mississippi Army National Guard through a unique combination of education, benefits, and career placement programs executed biannually to enhance the overall quality of life for both our Soldiers and their families.

In close partnership with units across the state, the battalion hosts both active and static display events to demonstrate the unique capabilities and opportunities within the Mississippi Army National Guard. From armor displays at the Mississippi Agricultural and Outdoor Expo to logistics demonstrations, and through real-world disaster response in the state to aerial tours on Army Aviation assets, the unit is constantly at the forefront of education and visibility for the citizens of Mississippi and the American public.

The battalion prides itself on developing enduring personal connections with diverse communities throughout the state and abroad. Soldiers from the unit readily assist in numerous non-profit, community, and charity events throughout the year, including the "Over the Edge" rappelling event in Jackson benefitting the Children's of Mississippi Hospital, Annual Scout Summer Camp at Hood Scout Reservation in Hazlehurst, and many more. The Mississippi Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion is committed to its motto, "Excellence in Action!"





MSNG COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM

REGIONAL COUNTERDRUG TRAINING ACADEMY & COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE

"We continue to press the fight."

- Col. Robert Bartran
Commander of the Counterdrug Team

The Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Program is comprised of the Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) and the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy (RCTA). Each one of the 54 states and territories has a CDTF but Mississippi is one of only five states with a National Guard Counterdrug School. In fiscal year 2024, The National Guard Counterdrug Program saw a 30% increase in funding nationwide to address the Opioid Epidemic. This was the first funding increase since the program's inception. The Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Program is working to sustain this budget increase as the Fentanyl threat continues to grow.

The Mississippi National Guard CDTF provides air and ground reconnaissance, case analysis and drug demand reduction and outreach (DDRO) to local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations to enhance law enforcement operations in countering the drug threat by anticipating and deterring the threat of illegal substances, trafficking and violence throughout the state of Mississippi.

In FY24, more than 70 armed and unarmed (air and ground) counterdrug operational missions were conducted

in support of Mississippi law enforcement, resulting in drug seizures with an estimated street value of over \$4.7 million. The missions also seized 87 firearms, \$167,461 in cash, and over 80 arrests were made during these operations. Additionally, the Mississippi National Guard Counterdrug Task Force assisted the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration with the "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day," resulting in the collection and destruction of unused prescription drugs collected across the state.

The RCTA was established in 1992 under the Gulf States Counterdrug Initiative for the purpose of identifying resources, services, and support that could be provided by Department of Defense components to support counterdrug activities along the U.S. southern coastal region. Since establishing, the Mississippi National Guard's RCTA has trained more than 224,000 law enforcement officers from all 50 states and four of the U.S. territories. In FY24, the RCTA conducted 175 courses and trained 11,239 federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement officers from more than 2,100 agencies across 45 states and territories. The RCTA supported training for more than a dozen narcotics officer conferences nationwide.



STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

"Our partnership with Uzbekistan enhances the readiness and interoperability of both the Mississippi National Guard and Uzbekistan's various Ministries. Uzbekistan's participation in joint exercises like Exercise Southern Strike has strengthened both nations' capacity to respond to crises effectively."

- Lt. Col. Amanda Villeret
Director, MSNG State Partnership Program



The State Partnership Program (SPP) is a key U.S. security cooperation tool, facilitating local government, academic and economic contacts, as well as National Guard and civilian community involvement with partner countries.

SPP enhances cohesion across all aspects of international civil-military affairs and encourages people-to-people ties at the state level. Administered by the National Guard Bureau, SPP engagements are conducted both in the U.S. and the partner nation, to nurture bilateral relationships via mutual understanding and trust. NGB allocated approximately \$520,000 in Army and Air funds to the Mississippi National Guard (MSNG) SPP in 2024.

The MSNG currently maintains State Partnership Program relationships with Uzbekistan (2012) and Bolivia (1999). The MSNG and partner delegations have exchanged ideas on items of mutual interest including: Special Forces Operations, Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) Operations, Aviation Employment (fixed and rotary), Legal Studies, NCO Development (x3), Search and Rescue, and Combatting Weapons of Mass

Destruction (CWMD) (x3). Uzbekistan and Mississippi participated in two exercises together during state fiscal year 2024, Exercise Southern Strike and Exercise Regional Cooperation.

In 2024, the SPP partnered with the Mississippi Air National Guard (MSANG), Air Forces Central Command (AFCENT), and the Puerto Rico Air National Guard to conduct an airfield survey in Ferghana, Uzbekistan. MSANG and AFCENT personnel concurrently conducted an Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Subject Matter Expert Exchange with the Uzbek Air Force.

The Uzbek Military Attaché to the U.S. attended the MSNG Assumption of Command Ceremony welcoming the new Adjutant General of Mississippi, Maj. Gen. Bobby M. Ginn Jr., at the Mississippi State Capitol in September 2024. The presence of the Uzbek Military Attaché at such an event highlights the close military cooperation between Uzbekistan and the state of Mississippi and signifies the importance of these ties, fostering goodwill, and enhancing defense relations between both nations.



STATE ARMY AVIATION OFFICE

"The primary mission of the State Army Aviation Office is to safely train Mississippi National Guard Aviation warfighters and maintain airworthy aircraft to the highest standards. The proper resourcing of MSARNG aviation units through the three Army Aviation Support Facilities builds competent, capable, and lethal warfighters that are ready to deploy to fight and win our nation's wars or respond to any disaster in our state or the homeland."

– Col. J. Ashley Mills
Director, MSNG State Army Aviation Office

Mississippi Army Aviation maintains a robust presence throughout the state conducting the core tasks of training aircrews and maintaining aircraft, building aviation readiness for both federal and state missions. The State Army Aviation Office (SAAO) accomplishes this mission with 167 full-time federal employees spread among three Army Aviation Support Facilities (AASF). During FY24, the SAAO maintained approximately 12 students in flight school along with 80 students in other aviation schools, keeping our units full of qualified Soldiers. The SAAO supported flyovers, static displays, and air movements for Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units at our state's colleges and universities.

Army Aviation Support Facility 1 (AASF1) at Hawkins Field in Jackson provided maintenance, training and evaluation flights for the state's UH-60 Blackhawk fleet. AASF1 conducted air movement missions, VIP support, community support missions, and flyovers for sporting events. The facility also provided aviation support for numerous high-profile visits and surveys at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC) near Hattiesburg, and fire suppression coverage to Camp Shelby and Camp McCain in Grenada. The facility provided Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) aircraft and crews to conduct search and rescue missions in Florida on two separate occasions this past hurricane season. The facility, on average, executes approximately 1,800 total flying hours during a federal fiscal year.

Army Aviation Support Facility 2 (AASF2) in Tupelo provided the maintenance support and flight training for the AH-64D Apache and UH-72A Lakota helicopters and crewmembers. The facility supported numerous air mission requests and actively participated in a host of memorial

observances, recruiting and retention events, and community engagement and humanitarian activities. Apache maintenance personnel continued transition training to the new AH-64E platform this fiscal year in anticipation of its fielding in FY26. The facility assisted in the remanufacturing process of AH-64Ds by conducting maintenance on transitioning aircraft. The LUH-72A crews conducted storm damage assessment missions, supported Mississippi's Counter Drug Task Force, and participated in interagency training.

Army Aviation Support Facility 3 (AASF3) in Meridian provided the maintenance and training support for the CH-47F Chinook aircraft and crewmembers. The crews supported numerous air movements and paratroop missions during the year. The facility was also responsible for providing aircraft and crews for hurricane response to Florida on two separate occasions. The Chinooks also provide aerial firefighting capabilities to Camp Shelby during the annual training season.

Unmanned Aircraft System Flight Center (UASFC) at Camp Shelby conducts unmanned flight training as the primary UAS training site in the Army. During FY24, the Army divested its fleet of RQ-7 Shadows as it moves toward a new, more advanced unmanned aircraft. In the interim, the facility personnel have been turning in equipment and refining tactics and doctrine in anticipation of fielding the RQ-7 replacement.

The C-12 detachment, Operational Support Airlift Activity, located at Thompson Field in Jackson, provided high priority air transport of passengers and cargo for all DoD components as well as other government agencies, national and international partners.





MISSISSIPPI AVIATION CLASSIFICATION AND REPAIR ACTIVITY DEPOT

"It is truly an exciting time to be in Army Aviation and part of such an incredible team of skilled pilots, mechanics, artisans, and support staff here at the MS-AVCRAD. The quality of the work our employees perform for our regional customers is second to none and their passion for excellence is remarkable!"

– Col. Andy Ratcliffe
Facility Commander,

MS Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot

The Mississippi Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot (MS-AVCRAD) provides Army National Guard aviation sustainment maintenance, including depot capabilities, to 24 Army Aviation Support Facilities (AASFs) in the 10 Southeastern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. One of only four AVCRADs in the U.S., the MS-AVCRAD is an industrial-based maintenance facility located on 35 acres at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. Housed in 227,920 square feet of maintenance bays and warehouses, the MS-AVCRAD employs a hybrid workforce of 233 personnel comprised of 145 Federal

Technicians and 78 State Employees.

In FY24, the MS-AVCRAD received \$107 million in funding for their region, resulting in a total of 606 component work orders, 19 aircraft modifications, 122 aircraft special projects, and six aircraft paint projects.

While continuing to train and equip Soldiers of the 1108th TASMG for future deployments, the MS-AVCRAD also hosted 207 Soldiers from eight aviation maintenance units conducting annual training, providing additional labor for daily operations and invaluable training for the Soldiers.

Maintenance capabilities continue to improve with the advancement of technology, specifically within the Allied Trades section. Construction of a new Blade Blast Facility was completed in Spring 2024, allowing for greater efficiencies within the Blade Shop. MS-AVCRAD maintainers also completed training on the Joint Autonomous Repair Verification and Inspection System (JARVIS II) built by the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University. JARVIS II was originally used at Corpus Christi Army Depot in Texas but was transferred to the MS-AVCRAD at the direction of Maj. Gen. Thomas O'Connor, the commander of Aviation & Missile Command (AMCOM). The system utilizes cutting-edge technology including shearography as a non-destructive testing method to analyze UH-60L main rotor blades for damage.

The Machine Shop recently acquired a blue light scanner which enhances advanced manufacturing capabilities by creating digital maps of components requiring repair. These digital images are then used to program a dual extrusion 3D printer to create polymer items for test fitting on aircraft structures. The ability to test fit parts prior to machining them from block metal has led to vast improvements in cost avoidance. The scanner is also used to reverse engineer components and aid in the manufacture of special tools and the fabrication of parts.

As advances in aviation maintenance operations evolve, the MS-AVCRAD continues to leverage technology and modernization to remain at the forefront of aviation sustainment maintenance. These efforts ensure the safety of the warfighter and the airworthiness of the aircraft they operate.



114TH DIGITAL LIAISON DETACHMENT

"The 114th Digital Liaison Detachment (DLD) participated in Avenger Triade 2024 in the United Kingdom this year. Six corps participated in this exercise which was the largest training exercise since the end of World War II. We were able to liaison between the Allied Rapid Response Corps (ARRC) and the Multi-Corps Land Component Command (MCLCC) in which all mission command entities were involved and excelled. The DLD is highly trained and ready to answer the nation's call for future missions."

– Col. John B. Brown
Commander, 114th Digital Liaison Detachment

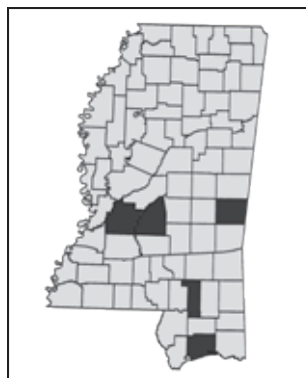
The 114th Digital Liaison Detachment, commanded by Colonel John M. Brown and Sgt. Maj. Anthony Combs, leads a specialized unit that provides liaison teams with digital information-sharing capabilities in support of U.S. Army headquarters.

DLDs are assigned or attached to selected theater armies and Army Service component commands (ASCCs) for employment in support at the corps and division levels. These teams provide commanders with the capability to conduct liaison with subordinate or parallel joint and multinational headquarters within the operational area. The 114th DLD is composed of 30 staff experts capable of providing advice and assistance to supported units and ensuring rapid and accurate communications.

Over the past year, the 114th DLD conducted extensive training in digital information management and communications interface capabilities as well as fielding new equipment in preparation for partnership with the Allied Rapid Response Corps (ARRC) in the United Kingdom during Avenger Triad 24, supporting the U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF) Command.

The ARRC, commanded by British Lt. Gen. Sir Ralph Wooddisse, is a corps-level NATO staff made up of 24 countries and is one of five corps taking part in Avenger Triad 24, the largest War Fighter Exercise to date. With successful connectivity, the 114th DLD can extract and share vital mission information for the ARCC to support USAREUR-AF.





MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"The Mississippi National Guard Public Affairs Soldiers, Airmen and civilian technicians share an enduring spirit of professionalism and excellence in our skills. It is our mission to tell the story of the Mississippi National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who wear the cloth of freedom in support of our state and nation."

– Lt. Col. Deidre D. Smith
Director, Mississippi National Guard Public Affairs

The Mississippi National Guard's Public Affairs community shares the responsibility to "Tell the Story" of our approximately 12,500 brave men and women in uniform who serve at home, in our communities, and around the world, supporting our state and nation during peacetime, natural disasters, emergency responses, and in times of conflict.

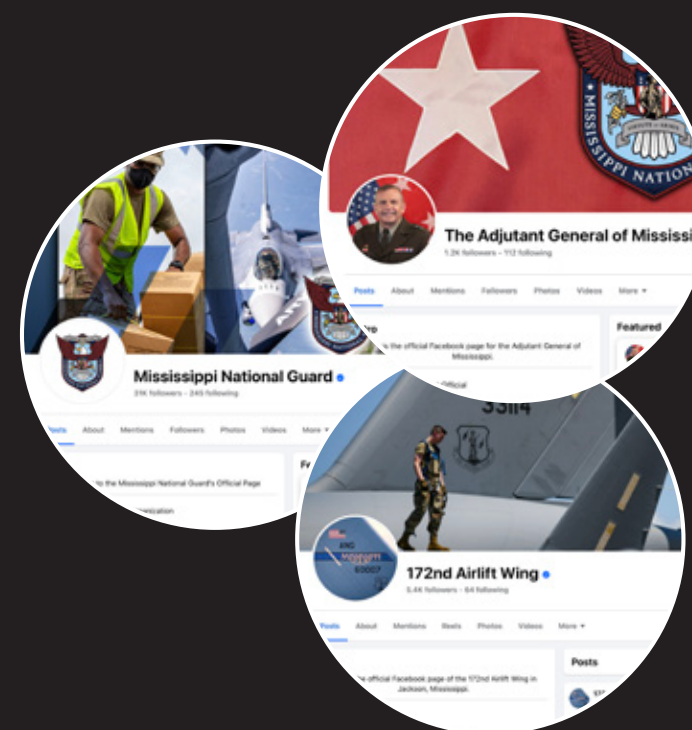
The MSNG Public Affairs professionals serve tirelessly behind the scenes to showcase the successes of our organization. We utilize every communication platform available to us, internal and external, to broadcast the accomplishments of our esteemed talented professionals representing every county in our great state.

Our team fulfills the Army's fundamental duty of informing the American people, Department of Defense stakeholder's, our personnel, and our interagency partners of the exemplary accomplishments and ongoing state-wide and global efforts contributed by the MSNG Soldiers and Airmen. We are dedicated to amplifying the command messages of our leadership while streamlining organizational messaging throughout our formation by the use of visual imagery, videos, media engagement, radio interviews, public speaking, website publications, fly-over coordination, community relations events, and support to various internal command ceremonies and events.

MSNG Public Affairs professionals are located throughout the state to provide media engagement and PAO coverage. The State Public Affairs Office is located at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson, the 102nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is located at Raymond Rd. Armory in Jackson, the 172nd Airlift Wing PAO is in Flowood, 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian, Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg, the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport as well as the Major Subordinate Commands located throughout our state.



14,250 PUBLICATIONS IN CIRCULATION



1,427 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

627,008 ONLINE IMPRESSIONS

79,535 SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

317 MEDIA ENGAGEMENT OPERATIONS

652 INTERNAL EVENTS COVERED

297 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

5,014 FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS REPORTED



• Cumulative totals represent all Mississippi National Guard Public Affairs Teams •



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